

The background of the top half of the page is a stylized American flag. It features a dark blue field with numerous gold stars of varying sizes. A large, faint eagle is visible behind the stars. The right side of the image shows the red and white stripes of the flag, which have a textured, slightly distressed appearance.

# **DRA**

# **DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY**

*Delta Regional Authority*

## **Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Justification and 2012 Annual Report**

*Creating Jobs. Building Communities. Improving Lives.*

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# DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY

OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL CO-CHAIRMAN

May 08, 2013

I am pleased to support the President's fiscal year 2014 appropriation request for the Delta Regional Authority, which totals \$11,319,000; a \$230,816 increase over fiscal year 2013 final (\$11,088,184). DRA will dedicate that increase to its investment account, the States' Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP) -- not its operations expenses -- thereby increasing its ability to leverage other funds for better outcomes for the Delta region. Further, in fiscal year 2014, DRA will reduce its operations expenses by \$51,180 (3.1 percent) and transfer those funds as well to its SEDAP investment account. These two re-directions of fiscal year 2014 appropriation will yield additional SEDAP investment of \$281,996.

Please note, regarding the sequestration in fiscal year 2013, Delta Regional Authority actually created its own fiscal year 2013 sequestration account at the General Services Administration (GSA) into which the Authority obligated the entire 8.5 percent (potential) sequestration. Accordingly, from day-one of fiscal year 2013, the DRA had built-in and accounted for the full sequestration effect on its budget, so there would be no impedance on DRA fulfilling its fiscal year 2013 mission. However, when sequestration was finalized at 5.0 percent, the DRA realized a "windfall" of 3.5 percent (less the 0.2 percent rescission) -- the balance of which, all went into the SEDAP investment account.

In looking toward the coming year, DRA will continue its successful practices of strong accountability and transparency, including even more-rigorous audit benchmarks. DRA recognizes its institutional focus to be fiscally responsible, while it works to help create jobs, build communities, and improve lives. As example, for fiscal year 2012, the DRA earned its 11th unqualified audit (out of 11 audits) from its independent financial auditors. Further, of the 322 compliance tests of DRA's investment account, SEDAP, independent financial auditors found zero exceptions -- that is 100 percent compliance.

Throughout its 11 years of service to the Delta, DRA has successfully leveraged funds from other federal agencies (now totaling more than \$630 million; a more than 6 to 1 investment ratio), thereby better leveraging outcomes for its region -- that is more jobs being created and retained, more clean water and/or working sewer being provided for families, greater growth for small businesses and entrepreneurship and similarly, greater growth in workforce development and digital literacy.

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businesses and entrepreneurs. DRA is increasing its investments in programs which create positive environments for small businesses and entrepreneurs to thrive -- in other words: helping local leaders create indigenous climates of opportunity. Over the past two years, DRA has increased its investments in small businesses and entrepreneurship from \$100,000 in 2010 to more than \$6 million (in fiscal years 2011 and 2012) -- a 6,000 percent investment increase into small business and entrepreneurship.

As is its hallmark, the Authority continues its use of strategic collaborations to help leverage investments from the private and nonprofit sectors, which over its 11 years of investment cycles DRA is helping to bring in more than \$1.7 billion to better develop communities in the Delta. This private investment has been leveraged with only \$108 million (DRA's appropriations), a leverage ratio of 16.2 to 1. Overall, DRA's SEDAP has funded 718 projects and is helping to bring total of \$2.5 billion (a leverage ratio of more than 22 to 1) into its region.

During the first continuing resolution, DRA approved twelve projects (SEDAP Phase I), which are expected to draw more than \$60 million in investment into the region. Now, with its full year of funding, DRA is proceeding with its second phase of SEDAP funding.

As a result of its 11 investment cycles, DRA's SEDAP has produced some remarkable outcomes:

	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Projected</b>
Jobs created and retained	16,829	23,292
Families that receive new water and/or sewer services	25,497	35,236
Individuals trained for jobs	3,745	11,750
Individuals that receive digital literacy/professional skills training		13,000

As a reminder, it is important to note that when DRA makes investments into projects which will create or retain jobs, DRA requires the grantee to execute a "participation agreement" which provides that, should outcomes not meet the levels executed in the grant agreement, DRA shall recoup the prorated share of the deficiency.

During fiscal year 2013, DRA is working even more closely with federal partners -- both old friends and new friends -- on joint initiatives that will provide additional opportunities to grow and sustain the region. These new joint investments will better "level the playing field" in



Federal Co-Chairman Chris Masingill

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May 08, 2013

several sectors: education and training, workforce and infrastructure development, re-shoring jobs for the region's employment growth and other investments which in the past eluded Delta residents and businesses, specifically:

- Delta Community Capital Initiative with US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD);
- Delta Health Care Service Grant Program (DHCS) with USDA;
- Make it in America Challenge with EDA and US Department of Labor (DOL);
- Rural Jobs Accelerator with the US Economic Development Administration (EDA) and US Department of Agriculture (USDA);
- Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grant Program (TAACCCT); and
- Layering a Delta-focused workforce component into the Delta State Rural Development Network Grant Program with US Department of Health and Human Services.

Moreover, DRA continues to engage its constituents by increasing individuals' access to federal family assets in the fields of healthcare, access to affordable capital, and infrastructure financing tools, specifically:

- Innovative Readiness Training missions with US Department of Defense (DOD);
- Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing with DOT;
- Surety Bond Pre-Certification Program with US Department of Transportation (DOT); and
- White House Council on Strong Cities, Strong Communities (SC2).

With all these accomplishments in our past and present, I look forward to continuing our efforts in the coming year and building upon our record of creating jobs, building communities, and improving the lives of all people in the Delta region.

Thank you for your support of the important work that we do. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Masingill", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Christopher Masingill

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# Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Justification and 2012 Annual Report

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# Federal Co-Chairman's Annual Review

During 2012, the Delta Regional Authority took on projects and policy initiatives that were both groundbreaking and record-setting. Under the leadership of Federal Co-Chairman Chris Masingill and the States' Co-Chairman, Governor Jay Nixon, the Authority has strengthened itself through its four core areas: Policy Initiatives, Funding Programs, Communications, and Administration. Below are highlights of the past year's accomplishments discussed in further detail throughout this publication.

## **February 2012:**

The Delta Regional Authority announced an innovative new partnership aimed at strengthening the pipeline of skilled students and workers across the Mississippi River Delta region. Delta Regional Authority Federal Co-Chairman Chris Masingill joined Delaware Governor Jack Markell to launch a \$350,000 investment into Jobs for America's Graduates, Inc. The initiative, of which Governor Markell is the Chairman of the National Board, helps provide training assistance to students at risk of dropping out of high school. The JAG program has a proven track record among the most disadvantaged students - boosting employment among the poorest African-American youth in single-family households by 88 percent and the poorest Hispanic youth from single-parent households by 100 percent.

## **March 2012:**

The Obama Administration announced a \$15 million multi-agency Rural Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge to spur job creation and economic growth in distressed rural communities nationwide. The competition, funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Delta Regional Authority (DRA), and the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), was designed by the Taskforce for the Advancement of Regional Innovation Clusters and the White House Rural Council. DRA participated in this challenge as part of a national effort to support rural partnerships.

Also in March, the DRA and the Association of Small Business Development Centers (ASBDC) announced a new partnership aimed at establishing a framework for cooperation by and between the DRA and ASBDC. Officials with the two groups signed the MOU during ASBDC's annual conference.

## **April 2012:**

As part of DRA's support of Operation JumpStart, we partnered with the Douglas C. Greene Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship for the Accelerating Entrepreneurship in the Delta initiative. The objective of the initiative is to increase the capacity for communities to train, support, and mentor aspiring entrepreneurs, thus accelerating the number of new ventures created each year throughout the region. A request for proposals for funding was announced in early 2012, which attracted nearly 30 applications from organizations throughout the region wishing to host Operation JumpStart programs. In April awards were distributed to 10 organizations averaging \$18,453 in funding. These funds will be used to pay for training materials, course facilitators, and other expenses to deliver the Operation JumpStart SM program. Classes were offered between April and August of 2012 throughout the Delta. The initiative is anticipated to provide training and support to more than 300 aspiring entrepreneurs who are expected to immediately start nearly 100 new businesses.



**May 2012:**

Announced in May, the Delta Regional Authority hosted a workshop series titled, “Access the Delta: Enhancing Small Business and Entrepreneurship 2012.” With more than 200 participants from across the DRA’s states, this incredibly successful series brought together an enclave of ideas, resources, and people with the common cause of supporting the Delta’s entrepreneurs. Delta residents had the chance to learn about the resources that are available to help them start and/or grow their small businesses.

Since 2009, the Delta Regional Authority has partnered with the Department of Defense to host its Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program in various parts of the Authority’s footprint. On May 1-10 the Alabama Black Belt was home to three IRT sites. Patient encounters in the areas of dentistry, optometry, general medicine, and other specialties reached more than 25,000 in a ten-day period. This mission treated more patients than any previous IRT mission in the Delta combined.

**July 2012:**

July boasted a historic event for the DRA. In partnership with the White House Business Council, DRA, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and ARC hosted a Rural Economic Forum in Oxford, MS. This important day brought together Administration officials, community leaders, small business owners, and entrepreneurs for a conversation about regional economic concerns. Participants included Ari Matusiak from the White House Business Council, SBA Deputy Administrator Marie Johns, and ARC Chairman Earl Gohl. Along with Federal Co-Chairman Chris Masingill at the Delta Regional Authority, this group of leaders is using the common goal of proactively tackling regional issues to turn the challenges facing the Delta into opportunities for our people.

**August 2012:**

Throughout the year the DRA had opportunities to activate its Emergency / Contingency (EC) fund to support projects such as the cleanup effort following February’s devastating tornadoes in Southern Illinois and a particularly interesting opportunity that arose in August, when the Hickman and Fulton County Riverport received emergency dredging to keep the port open and operating. Without the dredging, the port faced, at minimum, a three to four week closure due to low water levels. DRA funding was activated by KY Governor Steve Beshear to keep the Dorena-Hickman Ferry and other essential functions of the port operating during one of the worst droughts in U.S. history.

This fall, the DRA launched the Rural Health IT Loan Fund. This innovative program seeks to spur the transition to Electronic Health Records (EHR) in underserved communities of the Delta. Small health care provider offices (HPOs) throughout the Delta region can seek an interest-free loan of up to \$7,500 to be used to install and adopt EHR systems. To kick off this innovative program the Authority, in conjunction with the White House Rural Council, hosted two regional workshops for stakeholders interested in learning more about adopting the initiative.

**September 2012:**

Announced in September 2012, the Delta Regional Authority partnered with Save the Children to target youth in the Delta region to improve literacy and educational achievement. The total commitment of \$780,000 identifies students in some of the most underserved areas across the Mississippi River Delta region. The initiative helps support training and infrastructure expenses for thirty school-based literacy programs in rural areas of Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee. According to the partnership, the Authority’s commitment to investing in Save the Children will provide high-level skills training to 180 program employees and at least 180 teachers, books, and computers to 30 Save the Children programs, and will fund quality after-school



programming for impoverished families at no charge. Save the Children is a leading independent organization creating lasting change for children by providing high-quality supplemental literacy, nutrition, and physical activity programming to children ages 12 and younger in areas of persistent, rural poverty. This model is predicated on Save the Children's ability to work in close partnership with public schools, local and state governments, and community organizations to build evidence-based model programs that are scalable, replicable, and accountable. These programs have proven to be structured enough to produce predictably positive results yet flexible enough to meet the unique needs of each community served.

#### **October 2012:**

The DRA Broadband Summit hosted Federal and State officials, including Anthony Wilhelm, Program Director for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) at the National Telecommunications and Information Agency (NTIA), for a thought-provoking conversation about Broadband access in the Delta region. The summit discussed: progress of successful statewide initiatives; funding sources available for city and county broadband projects; and potential impacts of Broadband availability on jobs and education in the Delta. Convening regional, state, and local leaders is a strong step toward connecting the Delta and its people to economic growth and opportunity. The summit was a great opportunity for Delta states and their leadership to work together toward a more digital Delta.

#### **November 2012:**

The DRA released *Today's Delta*, a comprehensive look at county and state-level statistics describing vital quality of life issues in the Delta region. This publication is a new tool to help its people and communities begin to address the needs and disparities evident throughout the DRA footprint. During the week leading up to Small Business Saturday, the DRA released an economic report focusing on job creation across the region, looking specifically at the jobs created in the region between 1992 and 2009. The report, *Jobs and Small Businesses*, used private sector data to confirm that across the region it is the small businesses and entrepreneurs that remain in the region and support the local economy in both good times and bad.

#### **December 2012:**

Chairman Masingill and DRA leadership held two major funding announcements investing in workforce and small business development projects. In El Dorado, Arkansas, DRA Board Designee Steve Jones joined Dr. Barbara Jones, President of South Arkansas Community College, to announce the beginning of construction on the El Dorado Incubator Environment (EDIE's Village), which will provide training, retail space, and necessary resources for small businesses and student entrepreneurs in the El Dorado community. Chairman Masingill then presented the Union Rescue Mission emergency funding to renovate the Dorcas House, a facility for women recovering from domestic violence and addiction. The renovation will allow the Union Rescue Mission to continue its Work Force Preparation program, which prepares participants to gain completion of their GED certificate or take courses toward other certifications and degree programs.

#### **January 2013:**

Kicking off the New Year with a focus on building a healthy Delta, the Authority announced a partnership with the Health Resources and Services Administration to support a healthy workforce for the region. The DRA Healthy Workforce Challenge is a funding initiative that will provide more than \$500,000 in additional total investment to programs targeting improved workplace health. The funding is coordinated with a program's receipt of HRSA's Delta States Rural Development Network Grant, emphasizing programs that support local health providers in working together across counties and parishes to implement programs that reduce the presence of chronic diseases in the Delta population and workforce. These programs will focus on strengthening the knowledge people of the Delta have regarding health risk and disease management.



# Overview of the Delta Regional Authority

## Vision Statement

After decades of decline, the Delta Region will achieve a pattern of sustained growth. Increasing capital investment and productivity will establish the region as a magnet for talent and innovation, and will nurture a sense of place within each community.

## Mission Statement

The DRA will serve as a regional focal point for resources, planning and ideas. The DRA will be a catalyst for investment in the communities and in the people of the Mississippi Delta.

The DRA, created by Congress in 2000, is a federal-state partnership serving 252 counties and parishes in an eight-state region. Led by presidentially appointed, senate confirmed Federal Co-Chairman (FCC) Chris Masingill; presidentially appointed Alternate Federal Co-Chairman (AFCC) Mike Marshall; State Co-Chairman Governor Jay Nixon; and the governors of each participating state (<http://www.dra.gov/about-us/board-members/default.aspx>), the Authority is designed to remedy severe and chronic economic distress by stimulating economic development and fostering partnerships that will have a positive impact on the Region's economy.

The Authority helps economically distressed communities to leverage other federal and state programs and funding opportunities through the four funding priorities: basic public infrastructure, transportation infrastructure, business development, and workforce development and training. Federal law requires at least 75 percent of funds to be invested in distressed counties and parishes and identified pockets of poverty, with 50 percent of the funds earmarked for basic public infrastructure and transportation improvements. In Fiscal Year 2012, the DRA invested 90.7 percent of federal funding in distressed counties and parishes and pockets of poverty 68.7 percent of funds in basic public infrastructure and transportation improvements.

At the local level, the Authority coordinates efforts with a combination of community and federal agencies. Local development districts (LDDs), regional entities with a proven track record of helping small municipalities, counties and parishes improve basic infrastructure and stimulate growth, serve as the Authority's front-line partners for project development and management.

DRA maintains a strong partnership with USDA Rural Development (USDA-RD) through their network of state and local offices, which support the Authority's Rural Communities Assistance Program (RCAP). Additionally, the Authority works with federal, state, and local government entities to invest in projects that achieve the four funding priorities.

## Economic Status of the Delta Region

The economic challenges facing the Delta region remain serious. Like the rest of the nation, incomes in much of the Delta have stagnated in recent years, as continued wage pressures from foreign competition coupled with one of the most dramatic economic downturns in recent memory and a struggling recovery have conspired to keep wage rates low in the latter half of the decade. Despite these downward pressures, however, nominal per capita personal income (PCPI) growth in the 252 counties and parishes of the DRA region has actually outpaced that of the eight DRA states and the U.S. in recent years. Between 2006 and 2011, nominal PCPI in the DRA region counties increased at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 2.7 percent, compared with 2.2 percent for the DRA states, and 2.0 percent for the nation.



# Overview of the Delta Regional Authority

As encouraging as this data appear to be, unfortunately, these short-term gains are not likely to be sustained over the long-term, further proving the importance of efforts to increase public and private investment in the Delta region. This projection can be explained by the significant equalizing effect of the last recession. U.S. income levels grew rapidly in the 1990s and in the years leading up to the downturn. This period of economic expansion largely bypassed the DRA counties. As a result, the impact of the recession on income in the Delta counties as a group was less dramatic relative to the US.

Furthermore, much of the DRA region entered the recession later than the nation as a whole. While PCPI at the national level saw modest growth between 2007 and 2008, rising 3.6 percent, the average growth rate for the DRA counties was 7.0 percent. Similarly, the drop in income levels experienced during the height of the recession in 2009 was less severe across the Delta region than at the national level. PCPI for the U.S. decreased by 5.6 percent between 2008 and 2009, compared with just 1.7 percent for the Delta region.

Finally, the performance of some individual counties has contributed to the region's overall improvement. In a number of cases, the "improvements" in PCPI have been the result of statistical quirks. For example, several parishes affected by Hurricane Katrina in 2005 saw dramatic increases in PCPI in subsequent years. This seeming incongruity likely reflects the influx of relief payments and new investment dollars measured against a diminished population. The 2009 revisions to the National Income and Product Account, which changed how the financial effects of disasters are captured, may also have contributed to the region's growth in PCPI during this time period. Other strong performances can be attributed to dramatic growth in energy-related industries, which have a significant influence on a number of the DRA counties.

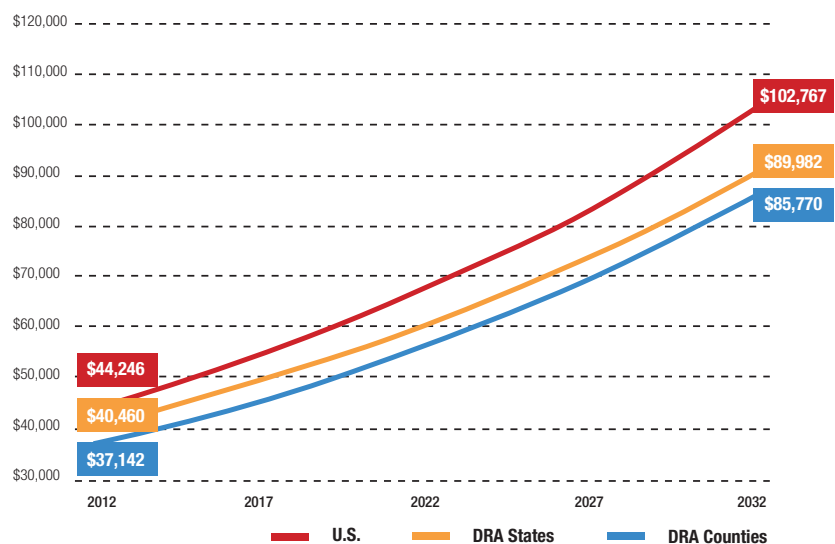
To help reduce the effect of these anomalies, the projections of nominal PCPI growth shown in Figure 1 were calculated using growth rates from a less volatile period. Under this scenario, income growth in the DRA region would begin to more closely parallel that of the eight DRA states over the next two decades. However, both would lag the U.S.

By 2032, PCPI for the U.S. is projected to reach \$102,767, while total PCPI for the Delta region is forecast to reach just \$85,770 over the same period, or 83 percent of national levels. By contrast, PCPI for the eight states would rise to \$89,982 or 88 percent of the US level (shown in Figure 1). With shrinking opportunities to earn more money relative to those outside the region, Delta residents with marketable skills will likely migrate elsewhere in search of better paying jobs, again emphasizing the need for the region to recruit private investment and increase opportunity for high-skilled, high-paying jobs.

Figure 1

## PROJECTED PER CAPITAL INCOME

Based on 10-year, 1995-2005 CAGR(unadjusted), in current (2012) dollars



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.  
Future income projections do not account for the impact of inflation.

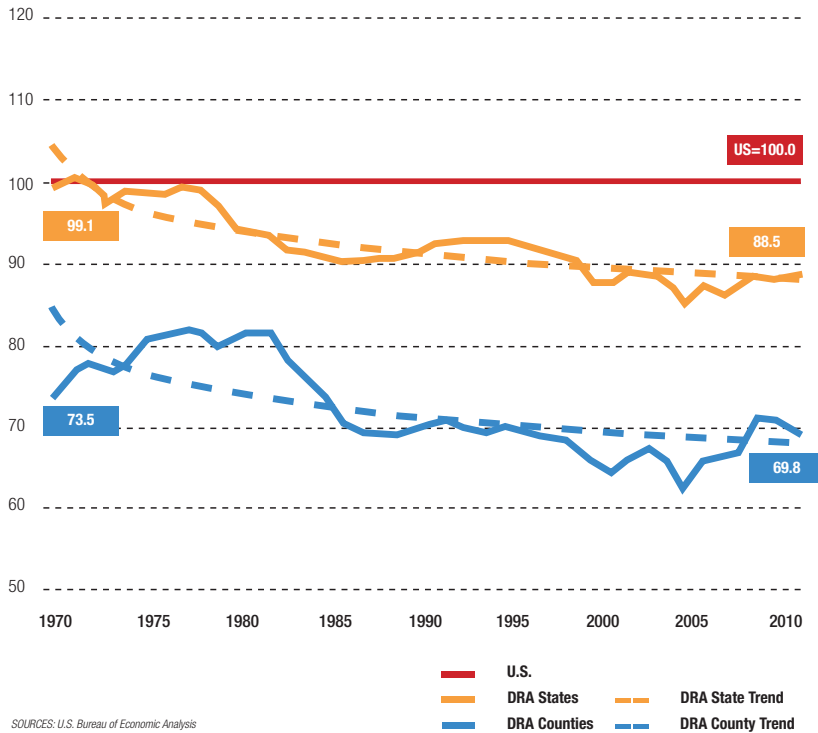


# Overview of the Delta Regional Authority

Figure 2

## SOURCE OF INCOME INDEX

Illustrates reliance on transfer payment as a source of income relative to the U.S.

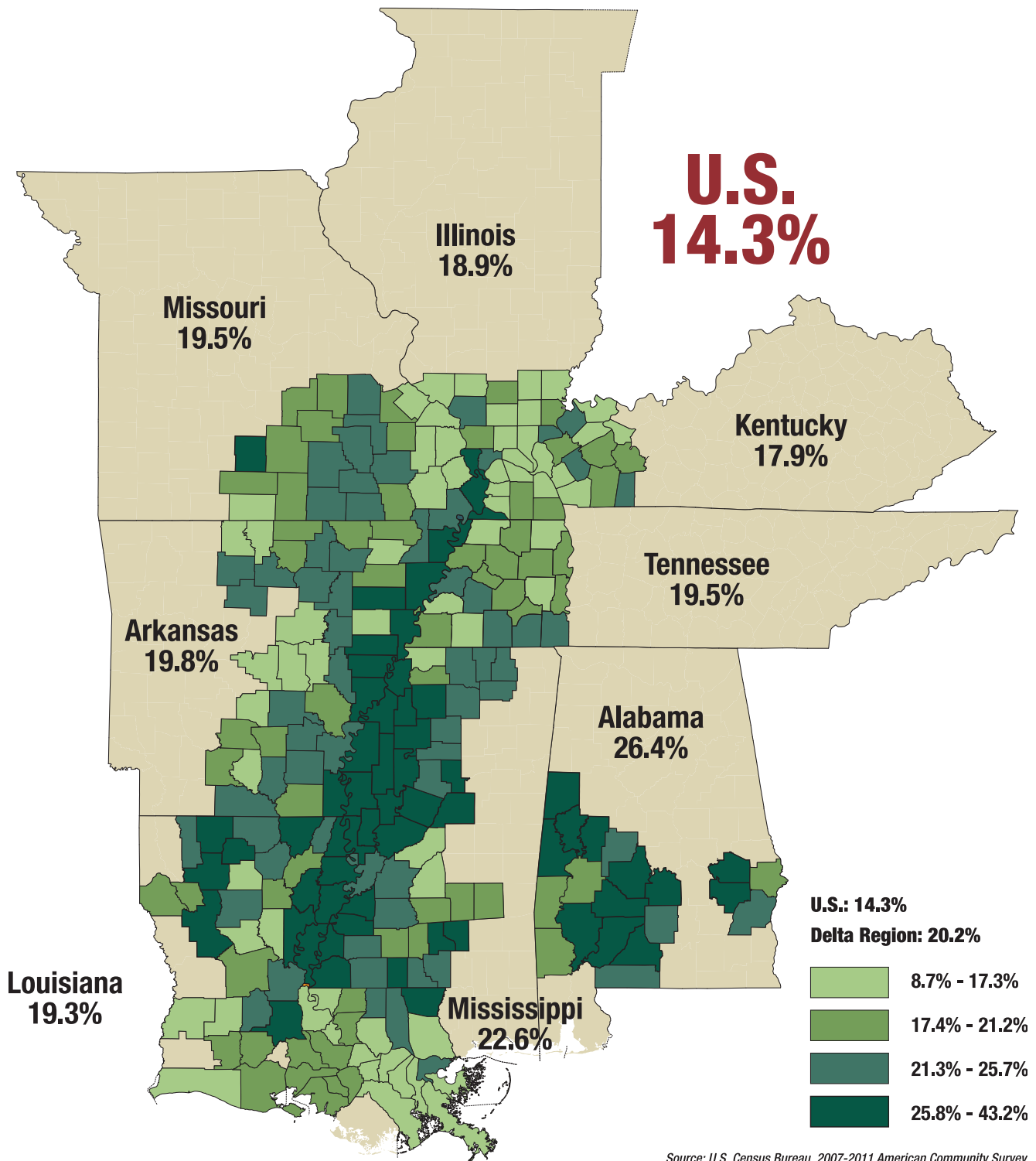


One trend that has not improved in recent years is the region's increasing dependence on public assistance relative to the DRA states and the U.S. To illustrate this point, Figure 2 shows the ratio of total wage and salary disbursements (earnings) to total government transfer payments for the DRA region and the eight DRA states. The annual ratio for the U.S. is set to 100 and represents the baseline ratio of earned income to transfer payments. The lower an index falls below 100, the greater the region's reliance on transfer payments relative to the rest of the country. It is obvious that both the states and the region are growing increasingly dependent on transfer payments as a source of income. The sharp decline in the regional index in the mid-2000s is likely the result of Hurricane Katrina related payments.

Although the index has recovered somewhat in recent years, the overall trend of the past several decades is clear: Delta

residents are increasingly earning less income derived from work. These realities are further proof of the need for prioritizing economic and community development for the entire Delta region, attacking these discrepancies with a regional approach. In answering these needs, the Delta Regional Authority, with its federal, state, and local partners, strives to transform these economic realities by focusing investment in our four priority funding areas as well as improving the health of the region's people and workforce, providing the necessary resources to build a supportive environment for small businesses and entrepreneurs throughout the region, and strengthening and connecting our state and local leadership.

# Percent of Population Living in Poverty: Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2007-2011





A distinguishing characteristic of the Delta Region is the pervasiveness of poverty. For the period 2007-2011, the average poverty rate of the Delta was 20.2 percent — significantly higher than the national average rate of 14.3 percent. Although the overall poverty rate for the region was higher than the U.S. average, counties and parishes with particularly high rates tend to be clustered along the Mississippi River and in the DRA counties of Alabama.

Among states in the Delta Region, the highest rates of poverty are in Alabama (26.4%) and Mississippi (22.6%). Kentucky has the lowest poverty rate in the region (17.9%) but still has a poverty level above the national average. Of the 252 counties and parishes within the Delta Region, more than 29 percent had poverty rates above 25 percent. The highest rates were in Holmes County, Mississippi (43.2%), and Jefferson County, Mississippi (42.8%), while the lowest rates in the region were in Grant County, Arkansas (8.7%), and Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana (9.4%).

While high poverty rates are a reality in the Delta region, this factor reinforces the focus and encourages the efforts of the Delta Regional Authority. This is manifested in DRA initiatives, programs, and collaborative efforts such as: the Make it in America Challenge led by the White House to bring jobs back to the nation and the Delta region; Innovative Readiness Training, which provides healthcare services to Delta residents; Operation JumpStart, DRA's entrepreneurial development program, which targets and trains potential entrepreneurs to develop sustainable employment in the region; and Job's for America's Graduates (JAG), a school-to-work program targeting at-risk, high school aged youth in preparation for a 21st century global economy.

# Federal Family Partnerships

**Delta Communities Capital Initiative (DCCI) (in development)** -- The DCCI is an initiative being designed in collaboration with a number of DRA's federal agency partners -- the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Department of the Treasury Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund), and the Department of Agriculture -- Rural Development (USDA-RD). The goal of this initiative is to increase access to capital for affordable housing, business lending, and community facilities in the chronically underserved and undercapitalized Delta region. Specifically, it will provide direct investment and technical assistance to community development lending and investing institutions that help deliver more affordable housing and enhanced community facilities to the people of the Delta. This initiative will also help entrepreneurs and small business owners in the Delta gain access to capital, enabling them to expand and enhance their businesses.

**DRA and the White House Council on Strong Cities, Strong Communities: A Collaborative Conversation about Philanthropy, Federal Funding and Partnership in the Delta** -- The DRA and the White House Council on Strong Cities, Strong Communities partnered to host a collaborative conversation about philanthropy, government, partnership, and sustainable development in the Delta region on March 17, 2013 in Memphis, TN. This collaborative conversation was held in partnership with the Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Sustainable Communities. The meeting also served as a regionally-focused platform through which to introduce members of these various circles to one another and develop partnerships among them.

**Innovative Readiness Training** -- Since 2009, the Delta Regional Authority has partnered with the Department of Defense to host its Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program in various parts of the Authority's footprint. Patient encounters for more than three years in the areas of dentistry, optometry, general medicine, and other specialties have reached more than 25,000 in Alabama, Arkansas, and Mississippi. This summer, DRA is hosting IRT missions in six states of the Delta region.

**Make It In America Challenge (MIIA)** -- MIIA is an initiative of four funding agencies (including DRA) designed to 1) encourage re-shoring of productive activity by U.S. firms; 2) foster increased foreign direct investment (FDI); 3) encourage foreign and domestic companies to keep or expand their businesses and jobs in the U.S.; and 4) train local workers to meet the needs of those businesses. The initiative will provide American communities with critical infrastructure, strategic planning, capacity building, technical assistance, and workforce development resources to help them become more attractive locations for business investment. Ultimately, for DRA, this Challenge is designed to increase business investment and job creation while leveraging additional federal resources which otherwise may not have been directed into the Region.

**Rural Jobs Accelerator with the US Economic Development Administration (EDA) and US Department of Agriculture (USDA)** -- The Rural Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge (Rural Jobs Accelerator) is an inter-agency funding opportunity designed to provide regions with the resources to plan and implement coordinated, flexible, regionally-customized activities capable of helping rural regions capitalize on the benefits of regional innovation clusters. In this cycle, two projects 1) Accelerating Jobs and Innovation through Community and Economic Development in Mississippi and 2) I-20 Corridor Regional Business Accelerator, will leverage over \$1.5 million in other federal funds and \$30.6 million in other private funds to help create and retain over 500 jobs and establish 12 new businesses. The DRA knows that connecting rural America to industry clusters is crucial not only for the direct benefit rural communities receive through new education, training and high-wage job opportunities, but also for the long-term competitiveness of the wider regional and U.S. economy.



# Federal Family Partnerships

**Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grant Program (TAACCCT)** -- The TAACCCT grant program provides eligible institutions of higher education with funds to expand and improve their ability to deliver education and career training programs that can be completed in two years or less, and are suited for workers who are eligible for training under the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) for Workers Program ("TAA-eligible workers"), as well as other adults. As a result of this solicitation, DRA and the other funding partner(s) will help ensure that our nation's higher education institutions are able to help TAA-eligible workers and other adults acquire the skills, degrees, and credentials needed for high-wage, high-skill employment while also meeting the needs of employers for skilled workers. DRA seeks to leverage \$10-\$25 million in Department of Labor grant funding, which otherwise may not have been directed into the region.

**USDA Rural Development Delta Health Care Services (DHCS) Grant Program** -- The Delta Health Care Grant Services Program is designed to provide financial assistance to address the continued unmet health needs in the Delta Region through cooperation among health care professionals, institutions of higher education, research institutions, and other individuals and entities in the Delta Region. DHCS grant funds may be utilized for the development of health care cooperatives, health care services, health education programs, health care job training programs, and the development and expansion of public health-related facilities. Grants will be awarded to eligible entities in the Delta region that serve communities of no more than 50,000 inhabitants to help address the long-standing and unmet health needs of the region. The Notice of Funds Availability for the 2013 DHCS is currently being designed. The Delta Regional Authority is proud to be working in partnership with USDA Rural Business Cooperative Service to design and deliver this program in 2013 in a unified effort to improve healthcare access and address the health needs of the people of the Delta.

**U.S. Department Of Transportation Bonding Education Program** -- The US DOT Bonding Education Program (BEP) is a partnership with the Surety and Fidelity Association of America to help small businesses become bond-ready, tackling a challenge faced by many disadvantaged businesses. The BEP consists of a comprehensive set of all-inclusive workshops designed to address what businesses need to do to become bond-ready, as well as one-on-one sessions with local surety bonding professionals to help assemble the materials necessary for a complete bond application. This program is tailored to businesses competing for transportation-related contracts. The DRA looks forward to working with SBTRC (Small Business Transportation Resource Centers) and other partners around the Region in order to help small and disadvantaged businesses grow by building bonding capacity. The DRA also plans to work with these partners in order to enhance future phases of training and facilitate program expansion and success.

**U.S. Department of Transportation Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (RRIF)** -- The RRIF program provides access to direct loans and loan guarantees up to \$35.0 billion to finance development of railroad infrastructure. Up to \$7.0 billion is reserved for projects benefiting freight railroads other than Class I carriers. Direct loans can fund up to 100 percent of a railroad project with repayment periods of up to 35 years and interest rates equal to the cost of borrowing to the government. Funding may be used to acquire, improve, or rehabilitate intermodal or rail equipment or facilities, including track, components of track, bridges, yards, buildings, and shops; refinance outstanding debt incurred for the purposes listed above; and develop or establish new intermodal or railroad facilities. The DRA is working with DOT in order to increase awareness of the RRIF program, and to ensure these funds are utilized effectively in the Delta region.



December 7, 2012

Mr. Christopher Masingill  
Federal Co-Chairman  
Delta Regional Authority  
236 Sharkey Avenue, Suite 400  
Clarksdale, MS 38614-4405

Dear Chairman Masingil:

I wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate you and your staff on a highly successful audit. Delta Regional Authority (DRA) received an unqualified or "clean" opinion on their financial statements, which is the highest level of opinion we can issue. Furthermore, the accountants' report on internal control over financial reporting and compliance for audits under *Government Auditing Standards* reported no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control. I believe this is the first time DRA has achieved this level of reporting on internal controls in our history with the agency. Further testament of DRA's process improvements come from the results of our compliance testing. In our SEDAP testing, in a test of a total of 322 attributes in 23 sampled files, no exceptions were identified.

The results of the audit are notable and reflect positive changes in your processes and controls over financial reporting and compliance. Recent discussions with Bill Triplett have indicated there are steps in place to continue to improve and strengthen these controls. I applaud and encourage those efforts. Please know BKD stands ready to assist in any way we can.

We appreciate our long standing relationship with DRA and look forward to future years.

Sincerely,



Timothy T. Burns, CPA

TTB:jsh

# Delta Regional Authority

## Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Submission

**Table 1 -- Sources and Uses for Fiscal Years 2012 to 2014 Appropriations**

	FY-2012 Actual	FY-2013 Budgeted	FY-2014 Requested
<b>Sources: Appropriation</b>	\$ 11,677,000	\$ 11,677,000	\$ 11,319,000
<b>Plus: FY-2012 Balance</b>		21,961	
<b>Less:</b>			
<b>Rescission</b>	0	(23,354)	0
<b>Sequestration</b>	0	(587,423)	0
<b>Available Funds</b>	\$ 11,677,000	\$ 11,088,184	\$ 11,319,000
<b>Uses:</b>			
<b>Operations</b>	\$ (1,679,449)	\$ (1,648,660)	\$ ( 1,597,480)
<b>LDD TA Support</b>	(504,000)	(477,792)	(477,792)
<b>SEDAP -- 1</b>	(9,471,590)	(2,854,879)	(9,243,728)
<b>SEDAP -- 2</b>	0	(6,106,853)	0
<b>Ending Balance</b>	\$ 21,961	\$ -	\$ -

### NOTES

1. FY-2012 carry-forward of \$21,961 = Difference between budgeted of \$1,701,000 and actual of \$1,679,449
2. FY-2012 carry-forward of \$21,961 was applied to SEDAP -- 2
3. FY-2013 rescission (\$23,354) and sequestration (\$587,423) amounts provided by GSA and OMB
4. FY-2013 Budgeted Operations was published in FY-2013 Budget Justification
5. FY-2013 LDD Support is reduced by 5.2 percent (the sequestration and rescission percentages)
6. FY-2013 SEDAP -- 1 (\$2,854,879) and SEDAP -- 2 (\$6,101,853) totals \$8,961,732
7. FY-2014 Operations estimates continue trend of reduction

**Table 2 -- Programmatic Expenditures -- Fiscal Years 2012 to 2014 Appropriations**

	<b>FY-2012 Actual</b>	<b>FY-2013 Budgeted</b>	<b>FY-2014 Requested</b>
<b>LDD TA Support</b>	\$ 504,000	\$ 477,792	\$ 477,792
<b>SEDAP</b>	9,471,590	8,961,732	9,243,728
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 9,975,590</b>	<b>\$ 9,439,524</b>	<b>\$ 9,721,530</b>

**Table 3 -- Operating Expenditures -- Fiscal Years 2012 to 2014 Appropriations**

	<b>FY-2012 Actual</b>	<b>FY-2013 Budgeted</b>	<b>FY-2014 Requested</b>
<b>Compensation &amp; Benefits</b>	\$ 1,012,328	\$ 1,098,266	\$ 1,049,073
<b>Contractual &amp; Research</b>	333,913	194,200	191,700
<b>Travel</b>	152,263	136,000	132,000
<b>Overhead Expense</b>	138,506	133,194	135,104
<b>Comm &amp; Pub Engagement</b>	42,441	87,000	89,603
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,679,451</b>	<b>\$ 1,648,660</b>	<b>\$ 1,597,480</b>





# DRA Policy and Program Highlights

**Connect2Compete (C2C) and the DRA Broadband Summit --** The DRA has partnered with Connect2Compete to support a pilot program that will provide 45 schools in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi with reduced-cost Internet service, affordable computers, and free digital literacy training in Fall 2012. The program also provides affordable computers and Internet service to families of students in the participating schools who currently do not have broadband access at home.

As part of the DRA's commitment to increasing broadband connectivity through the Delta region, DRA partnered with the state broadband initiatives in each state of its footprint to host the first-ever Regional Broadband Summit for the Delta. More than 100 community leaders gathered in Memphis, TN, for four panels featuring broadband and federal officials to discuss potential programs to increase broadband access in the region; potential funding sources for city and county projects; the impact of broadband on job creation and education; and other innovative state broadband programs.

**Jobs for America's Graduates --** Jobs for America's Graduates, Inc., (JAG) is the nation's largest and, arguably, the most successful school-to-work system for at-risk and disadvantaged youth. JAG focuses on keeping students in school through graduation, equipping them with the academic and technical skills necessary to improve their employability, which is parallel to DRA's commitment to invest in strategies that boost employment and educational success. The ongoing DRA – JAG partnership will support the opening of 10 new JAG programs at schools in the DRA service area and the JAG National Organization.

**LDD Strengthening Initiative --** The Delta Regional Authority maintains a strong partnership with the National Association of Developing Organizations (NADO) Research Foundation. NADO is responsible for developing and implementing programs aimed at strengthening the performance, programs, and results of the 45 Local Development Districts (LDDs) serving the DRA region.

This initiative will help LDDs develop an outreach strategy to educate and inform various stakeholders about their many roles within their respective regions.

In an effort to provide more stringent accountability and a more refined scope on the part of both the LDD and the Authority, DRA instituted a revision of its Memorandum of Agreement, which is signed by each LDD. Subsequently, the Authority has been in communication with NADO and Management Concepts, Inc. to provide training for LDDs. This training will allow LDDs to become DRA Certified Strategic Partner Affiliates. The certification process shall entail LDD members attending an annual training session, which shall provide an in-depth review of awardee application preparation, project administration assistance, peer-led group discussions, and compliance training.

**Project Investment/Super Project --** The DRA has funded a total of 63 investments for the 2012 funding cycle. Of these, there were 13 Business Development (BD), 26 Basic Public Infrastructure (BPI), 19 Transportation Infrastructure (TI) and 5 Workforce Development (WD) oriented projects. A total of \$282,776,584 in public and private investment was leveraged in FY 2012. The Authority actively engages partner agencies to further leverage and provide funding for projects in the Delta Region. Such partner agencies include, but are not limited to: USDA Rural Development, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Environmental Protection Agency. In addition, the Authority recognizes the urgency to fund projects that impact residents across multiple Delta States. Therefore, provisions have been made which include the funding of "Critical Development" projects. These projects, by definition, include \$300 million or more in investment and, other than technology-related projects, will create or retain 350 jobs or more. The DRA Board must vote on Critical Development projects, and each state must be willing to forego a certain percentage of its annual allocation for the project. Up to half of the host state's allocation for the given cycle is utilized for

# DRA Policy and Program Highlights

project funding, with the remaining seven states splitting the difference equally, by percentage.

Currently, the Critical Development Frank C. Pidgeon Industrial Park project, hosted by the State of Tennessee, was issued a Notice to Proceed on January 3, 2012, for major improvements to roadway access for the park. Electrolux, a home products business, has committed to creating approximately 1,240 jobs for residents across six counties in Tennessee, Arkansas, and Mississippi. The industrial park is also home to Nucor Steel and Canadian National Railroad. A DRA investment of \$3,000,000 sponsored demolition, removal, construction and relocation of a drainage ditch to widen an existing roadway providing increased access and safety for the industrial park. With the current unemployment rate of the surrounding region at 10 percent, the location of this major industrial park along with its supplier networks will have a substantial impact on all three states. At present, an electric distribution line, streetlights, fire hydrants, and water services have been put in place and the project is making progress toward a scheduled completion in December 2014.

**Save the Children --** Save the Children is a leading independent organization creating lasting change for children by providing high-quality supplemental literacy, nutrition, and physical activity programming to children ages 12 and younger in areas of persistent rural poverty. This model is predicated on Save the Children's ability to work in close partnership with public schools, local and state governments, and community organizations, to build evidence-based model programs that are scalable, replicable, and accountable. This partnership will help with training and infrastructure expenses for thirty school-based literacy programs in the Delta region in rural areas of Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee. Most recently the partnership has brought Save the Children programming to Missouri. These funds will align with DRA's mission to "improve basic public services" and "assist the region in obtaining job training, employment-related education."

**Small Business and Entrepreneurship Initiative --** In order to accelerate the number of skilled entrepreneurs that generate new and expand existing job-creating businesses, the DRA approved nearly \$2 million for small business and entrepreneurship initiatives in Fiscal Year 2012. DRA programs such as Access the Delta and Operation JumpStart connected entrepreneurs with information and training to start and manage more sustainable businesses. Access the Delta workshops provided training to 276 participants. More than 120 economic development and community organizations completed certification training for Operation JumpStart, and 12 small awards were distributed through a competitive process to train local entrepreneurs across the region in facilitating the Operation JumpStart program. In 2012, 420 individuals completed the 36-hour training and started 148 new businesses. Operation JumpStart has a proven track record of success, and DRA is committed to further scaling the program.

Also in 2012, the DRA commissioned a significant research study to heighten awareness on the impact of small businesses on jobs in the 252 counties and parishes of the DRA region from 1992-2009. Among many findings, the study concluded that 92 percent of all net new jobs in the region were created by locally owned businesses with nine or fewer employees. Even further, the DRA commissioned the research and publication of its Small Business Entrepreneurship Policy Framework, which is a comprehensive systems approach to guide its policy decisions and investments that will lead to the creation of an entrepreneurial ecosystem in local Delta communities.

**Today's Delta --** In the Fall of 2012, the Delta Regional Authority released a regional publication, Today's Delta, commissioned by Federal Co-Chairman Masingill. Today's Delta gives a comprehensive look at statistical trends in the Delta including educational attainment, family composition, health status, population trends, and economic and housing conditions. The first of its kind, Today's Delta serves as a resource to enable those in the Delta and elsewhere to compare and contrast county and state



# DRA Policy and Program Highlights

level statistics regarding vital quality of life issues in the region. Overall, Today's Delta allows for holistic assessment and analysis of the Delta's strengths and areas of need and growth.

**White House Rural Council Health Information Technology Technical Assistance Workshops --** In furtherance of the White House Rural Council's policy initiative to expand health information technology in rural communities, Delta Regional Authority hosted two meetings on Health Information Technology Workforce needs. These day-long Health Information Technology Workforce meetings included discussions by education professionals, representatives from local hospitals and the Regional Extension Center, and a rural health expert on provider health IT needs and experiences who discussed the Health IT workforce curriculum.

These meetings were hosted in conjunction with the White House Rural Council, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)'s Office of Rural Health Policy, and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)'s Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC). Each event yielded an audience of approximately 60 people representing numerous stakeholder groups: providers from rural areas; community colleges; ONC/HRSA grantees in the region; Regional Extension Centers; HRSA State Offices of Rural Health Policy; Local Development Districts; and hospital personnel.

**White House Rural Economic Forum 2012 --** Under the directive of the White House, the Delta Regional Authority, with support from the Small Business Administration and the Appalachian Regional Commission, hosted a Rural Economic Forum in Oxford, MS on July 12. The Forum empowered more than 200 current and future small business owners to discuss issues facing Small Business and Entrepreneurship in the region and opportunities for regional and local success. The DRA was pleased to host the only rural economic forum in the country for the benefit of its stakeholders.

Among many topics vital to rural entrepreneurs in the DRA footprint, White House officials discussed the Administration's support for policies that create private-sector jobs and its ongoing commitment to the next generation of entrepreneurs. The Rural Economic Forum was designed to inform rural entrepreneurs and business owners of local and national administrative and financial resources to connect them to networks needed to grow and hire employees, and to foster discussion on ways to enhance their success.





## **FY 2013 SEDAP Project Summaries**

# Fiscal Year 2013 SEDAP Project Summaries

## 1. Alabama: Phenix City Riverfront Hotel Infrastructure and Site Preparation Project

**Awardee:** City of Phenix City

**Awardee Contact:** Eddie N. Lowe, Mayor

**County:** Russell

**Federal ID#:** 63-6001343

**Telephone:** 334-448-2727

**Congressional District:** 3

### Funding:

DRA	\$ 150,000	68.19%
Applicant	\$ 70,000	31.81%
Total	\$ 220,000	100.00%

**Description:** With funding from the Delta Regional Authority, the City of Phenix City will demolish existing sewer and drainage infrastructure that currently impede the construction of the proposed new hotel along their revitalized riverfront. Site preparation completed will include demolition of old sewer and drainage infrastructure, site grading, and installation of new sewer and drainage infrastructure.

**Benefits:** The Phenix City Downtown Redevelopment Authority and Ram Riverfront Hospitality LCC will construct an \$11 million, four-story, 99-room, Courtyard Marriott Hotel, creating 36 permanent new jobs.

## 2. Arkansas: Fairfield Bay Conference Center Sewer Upgrade

**Awardee:** Fairfield Bay

**Awardee Contact:** Paul Wellenberger, Mayor

**County:** Van Buren

**Federal ID#:** 71-0743967

**Telephone:** 501-253-6998

**Congressional District:** 2

### Funding:

DRA	\$ 78,100	5.43%
EDA	\$ 1,100,000	76.48%
Local	\$ 260,000	18.09%
Total	\$ 1,438,100	100.00%

**Description:** The DRA Funds will be used to extend sewer lines approximately 1000 feet in order to serve the existing conference center.

# Fiscal Year 2013 SEDAP Project Summaries

**Benefits/Outcomes:** The Conference Center is expected to employ four persons though contracting catering services for delivery of meals.

## 3. Arkansas: Hospitality and Culinary Workforce Development Program

**Awardee:** ASU Newport, Jonesboro Campus

**Awardee Contact:** Vice Chancellor Adam Adair

**County:** Craighead

**Federal ID#:** 71-0855933

**Telephone:** 870-680-8717

**Congressional District:** 1

### Funding:

DRA		\$ 97,771		6.00%
EDA		\$ 1,500,000		94.00%
Total		\$ 1,597,771		100.00%

**Description:** The proposed project will create a Food and Hospitality Services program at the ASU Newport campus in Jonesboro. This program will provide three courses of study: one certificate of proficiency, one technical certificate, and an Associate's Degree in Food and Hospitality Services.

**Benefits:** It is anticipated that the program will have successfully educated 300 students across the three levels in the first two years of its offering. Two full-time positions and one part-time position will be directly created by ASU to run and support the program.

## 4. Illinois: City of Carterville Water and Sewer

**Awardee:** City of Carterville

**Awardee Contact:** Charles Mausey, Mayor

**County:** Williamson

**Federal ID#:** 37-0811004

**Telephone:** 618-985-2700

**Congressional District:** 12

### Funding:

DRA		\$ 175,000		60.81%
Local		\$ 112,750		39.18%
Total		\$ 300,000		100.00%



# Fiscal Year 2013 SEDAP Project Summaries

**Description:** The City of Carterville will utilize DRA funds to provide access to water and sewer infrastructure for the 15 acres of property on which the SIH Cancer Center will be located.

**Benefits/Outcomes:** The Cancer Center will create at least thirteen new, permanent, full-time jobs. A clear number of jobs created still remains to be seen, as SIH is unsure how many cancer patients that are currently traveling out of state will become patients of the Cancer Center. It is also estimated that approximately 90 construction jobs will be created through the construction of the Center.

## 5. Kentucky: Ballard County Econ. & Ind. Dev. Board

**Awardee:** Ballard County Economic & IDB

**Awardee Contact:** Terry Simmons, CEO

**County:** Ballard

**Federal ID#:** 61-1216796

**Telephone:** 270-744-3232

**Congressional District:** 1

### Funding:

DRA	\$ 307,000	19.84%
EDA	\$ 850,000	54.94%
Local	\$ 390,000	25.21%
Total	\$ 1,547,000	100.00%

**Description:** The “Ballard County Economic & Industrial Development Board” (BCEIDB) is proposing to make improvements to an existing spec building located in Wickliffe, KY. It is currently unoccupied. BCEIDB is in negotiations with “Two Rivers Fisheries, Inc.”, a subsidiary of an international Chinese corporation, Wild Sea Corp., which is headquartered in Petersburg, Alaska.

**Benefits:** The project will assist the applicant to attract a new business to the region, creating up to 80 new jobs. It will also support the local industrial and business park by utilizing an existing spec building which is currently unoccupied.

## 6. Louisiana: Convent Water Treatment Plant Chlorination Building

**Awardee:** St. James Parish

**Awardee Contact:** Timothy Roussel, Parish Pres.

**County:** Williamson

**Federal ID#:** 72-6001228

**Telephone:** 225-562-2260

**Congressional District:** 3



# Fiscal Year 2013 SEDAP Project Summaries

## Funding:

DRA		\$ 90,810		89.27%
EDA		\$ 10,909		10.73%
Total		\$ 101,719		100.00%

**Description:** The construction of the chlorination building at the East Bank Water Treatment Plant is another phase needed to expand the capacity of the water treatment and distribution system within St. James Parish. This project will have a parish-wide impact and is a component of a much larger plan to link the East and West Bank water treatment plants and distribution systems.

**Benefits/Outcomes:** The project will allow the Parish to meet the existing and future usage requirements of businesses and industries. This project will benefit the residents and businesses of St. James Parish, the East Bank of Ascension Parish, and a portion of the Town of Litcher.

## 7. Louisiana: North Webster Parish Industrial District Water System Expansion

**Awardee:** North Webster Parish Industrial District  
**Awardee Contact:** Vice Chairman, David Smith  
**County:** Webster

**Federal ID#:** 72-1234567  
**Telephone:** 318-382-4426  
**Congressional District:** 4

## Funding:

DRA		\$ 208,000		50.98%
EDA		\$ 200,000		49.02%
Total		\$ 408,000		100.00%

**Description:** DRA funds will be used to drill a third fresh water well to increase the potable water supply of the North Webster Parish Industrial Park water system to meet the needs of a committed tenant moving into the industrial park.

**Benefits:** It is expected that 30 additional jobs will be created in the industrial district by expanding the water system to accommodate the new tenant needing the additional potted water for its business.

## 8. Louisiana: Madison Parish Port Rail Project

**Awardee:** Madison Parish Port Commission  
**Awardee Contact:** Dr. Clyde Thompson, Port Dir.

**Federal ID#:** 72-0708655  
**Telephone:** 318-547-2181



# Fiscal Year 2013 SEDAP Project Summaries

**County:** Madison

**Congressional District:** 5

**Funding:**

DRA		\$ 100,000	86.95%
EDA		\$ 15,000	13.04%
Total		\$ 115,000	100.00%

**Description:** This project involves the restoration of a rail that allows the movement of raw materials necessary to produce a finished product to the plant and the delivery of the finished product to market. The present rail is reaching the state where it is incapable of supporting the number and load capacity to accomplish these tasks.

**Benefits:** The immediate measurable outcome will be the retention of 75 jobs and the creation of two new jobs.

## 9. Mississippi: Montgomery County Board of Supervisors Project

**Awardee:** Montgomery County BOS

**Federal ID#:** 64-6000851

**Awardee Contact:** Nelson Forest

**Telephone:** 662-283-2333

**County:** Montgomery

**Congressional District:** 2

**Funding:**

DRA		\$ 102,125	6.00%
ARC		\$ 200,000	15.00%
Loan		\$ 320,173	24.00%
CDBG		\$ 400,000	29.00%
Private		\$ 356,047	26.00%
Total		\$ 1,378,345	100.00%

**Description:** Montgomery County owns the building that Screw Conveyor Corporation uses as a manufacturing facility. This building is leased and operated by Screw Conveyor Corporation. The company has an established history of providing jobs for the community and operating this facility. The purpose and scope of this project development is to establish work needed to repair/ renovate the manufacturing building presently being used by Screw Conveyor Corporation to provide a safer and healthier working environment within the existing building structure.

**Benefits:** The Company anticipates hiring an additional 20 people to manufacture this product and retaining 48 persons. The

# Fiscal Year 2013 SEDAP Project Summaries

new job positions will consist of machine operators, welders, CNC operators, press brake operators, painters and assemblers.

## 10. Missouri: Washington County IDA

**Awardee:** Washington County IDA

**Awardee Contact:** Paul Vilmer

**County:** Washington

**Federal ID#:** 43-6003965

**Telephone:** 573-438-6196

**Congressional District:** 8

### Funding:

DRA		\$ 174,817		45.00%
EDA		\$ 140,000		35.00%
Local		\$ 77,267		20.00%
Total		\$ 392,084		100.00%

**Description:** The Washington County IDA is proposing to construct a 1,500 sq. ft. terminal building adjacent to the T-hangars at the Washington County Airport. The structure will have a concrete foundation, wood frame with metal exterior and metal roof. The terminal will have a pilot's lounge and pilot's planning/meeting room to provide adequate space and infrastructure to communicate with FAA, check weather and develop flight plans. A waiting area for passengers will offer a protection from the weather with modern restroom facilities.

**Benefits/Outcomes:** In addition to creating seven new jobs, the immediate result of the proposed airport improvements is a new building that can host the airport manager, pilots and passengers. One of the primary airport clients is Purcell Tire and Rubber Company; the company is committing to creating seven new jobs and \$140,000 in private investment.

## 11. Missouri: Texas County Memorial Hospital (TCMH)

**Grantee:** Texas County Memorial Hospital

**Grantee Contact:** Jay Gentry

**County:** Texas

**Federal ID#:** 43-0887928

**Telephone:** 417-967-1377

**Congressional District:** 33



# Fiscal Year 2013 SEDAP Project Summaries

## Funding:

DRA	\$ 150,000	4.66%
FEMA	\$ 562,500	17.49%
CDBG	\$ 298,400	9.28%
Applicant	\$ 2,204,009	68.55%
Total	\$ 3,214,909	100.00%

**Description:** Texas County Memorial Hospital is seeking to build a new surgery area and on-campus tornado safe room/educational programming area.

**Benefits/Outcomes:** There are currently 382 employees at TCMH ranging from key medical staff to other clerical and support staff. This project would ensure that they would continue to have employment and be vibrant members of the community.

## 12. Tennessee: Vision Weakly-Expanding the Digital Factory in Northwest Tennessee

**Awardee:** Vision Perry

**Awardee Contact:** Michael Dumont

**County:** Perry

**Federal ID#:** 45-1453302

**Telephone:** 931-589-6631

**Congressional District:** 7, 8

## Funding:

DRA	\$ 162,500	100.00%
Total	\$ 162,500	100.00%

**Description:** The Trenton, TN facility, funded by DRA and USDA in 2011 has already created 115 full-time jobs in Trenton and the surrounding area. With program scale-ability proven, Michael Dumont and Tatiana Sankey want to expand the Digital Factory concept to Weakley County in hopes of securing trainees from the Obion, Henry, and Weakley County areas. DRA funding will support training for one year at the Digital Factory facility. These training dollars will be used to train support personnel and fund training operations at the facility that will benefit local residents.

**Benefits/Outcomes:** The Digital Factory will be a fully equipped work center which offers training, job placement, and work space. The in-depth training programs will develop a skilled, certified workforce who will be in a position to support nationally based companies with call center and programming services.





**FY 2013 States'  
Economic Development  
Assistance Program (SEDAP)**

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# FY 2013 States' Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP)

To better serve the DRA region, the Authority under Chairman Masingill's leadership has both realigned and reprioritized the goals of DRA's investment program, now known as the States' Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP). SEDAP's current focus is on project development and management. Following the Chairman's example, staff members now play a more active role in developing funded projects, building relationships, and connecting applicants and project developers to other funding sources thereby helping to complete needed projects. This approach is more holistic in nature and allows the Authority to be responsive to fluid economic development opportunities. SEDAP is now providing flexible funding solutions for the region.

Clearly, economic development has always been an integral part of the process for each of the SEDAP applications received by the DRA. The Authority is now better positioned to fill this role as a project developer rather than simply a funding source for economic and community development. Chairman Masingill is actively engaged in developing the necessary tools and resources to help achieve the Authority's goals for this program.

The Authority's 2013 SEDAP compliments the economic development activities taking place in the Region. From top to bottom, the entire program is crafted with the economic developer in mind. Highlights of the program include:

**Administrative Notice --** A document and method used by DRA to make and track policy and procedural changes. Annually, DRA reviews its procedures and programs for necessary revisions. These updates are encapsulated and officially announced through an Administrative Notice, which is made public to our stakeholders.

**Automated Application Website --** A web-based portal, found on [www.dra.gov](http://www.dra.gov), allows applicants to fill out and submit applications for DRA investment programs. After release of the awards the site provides back-office support and tools for the management of constituent portfolios. Each of the DRA partner groups (DRA staff, DRA board, LDDs, and applicants/awardees) will have a customized web presence to assist in monitoring application and project activity. Transparency and accountability are enhanced through the utilization of this technology.

**Critical Development Projects --** These projects include investment(s) of \$300M or more from public and/or private sources and - other than for technology-related projects - for which 350 or more jobs created and/or retained. Some developers refer to these projects as "super projects" because of the significant economic impact they bring to an area.

**Emergency/Contingency (E/C) Account --** Funds set aside for projects defined separately as emergencies related to natural disasters, fire, or unforeseen/unexpected developments that present a health and/or safety risk to communities; or contingency projects that fall outside the normal scope and/or timeline of the annual investment program. This funding program allows DRA the flexibility to act quickly to assist with needed investments in order to help restore a community or secure an economic development project.

**Expedited Process --** One of several funding pathways, the "Expedited Process" will be initiated by the state when an immediate need exists for an economic development prospect project. A "prospect" would be a company committed to creating and/or retaining jobs in a community. Upon the request of the state, DRA will act quickly to complete the necessary review, eligibility determination, and award documentation delivery so as to meet the unique circumstances of the project.

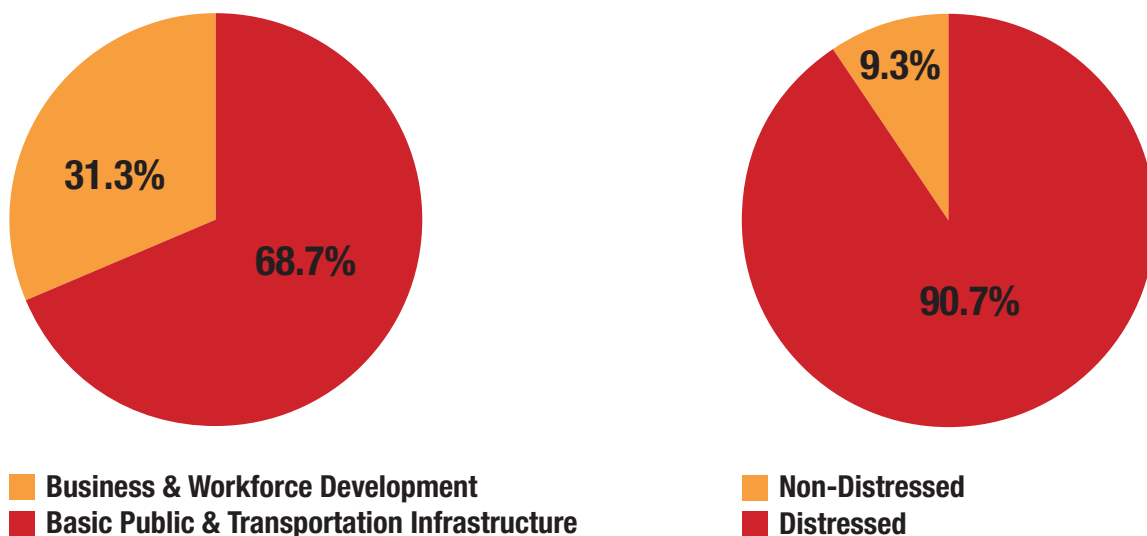


**Federal Priority Eligibility Criteria** -- Investment priorities established by the Authority, which have been adopted from the President's administration. Currently the four federal priorities for DRA investment are: 1) Innovation and Small Business, 2) Regional Approach, 3) Multiple Funding Partners, and 4) Emergency Funding Need. The first priority focuses on job creation and/or retention and together with the other priorities these represent the primary objectives of the SEDAP program. Every funded project should meet at least one of these four federal criteria.

**Priority Status Designation** -- An eligible project that meets at least one goal or priority from each of the three additional areas of investment focus: 1) Federal Priorities (set by the administration), 2) Regional Development Plan goals, and 3) DRA State Plan goals and/or priorities. Projects meeting these requirements are given first consideration during the project selection process and have the best chance of receiving a SEDAP award.

Governors' project recommendations, which are in line with Chairman Masingill's and the President's priorities, demonstrate the Authority's continued emphasis of the four funding priority areas:

- Basic Public Infrastructure
- Transportation Infrastructure
- Business Development - emphasis on entrepreneurship
- Workforce Development



Basic public and transportation infrastructure project funding totaled \$6,781,421 (68.7 percent of SEDAP investments) and funding for distressed counties and parishes was \$8,192,711 (90.7 percent) for Fiscal Year 2012. The total project funding allocation is \$9,471,590. SEDAP funds leveraged \$20,656,748 in additional project funding, a ratio of 2.5 to 1, and \$213,778,500 in private investment, a ratio of 22.9 to 1. For the FY 2012 SEDAP funding cycle the following is projected:

- 1,803 jobs will be created
- 869 jobs will be retained

- 8,136 families will receive improved water and sewer
- 3,411 individuals will be trained for jobs

Over the program's 11 years DRA has contributed \$108,019,579 to 718 projects in the eight-state region for total project costs of \$740,630,620. Total project cost includes \$632,611,041 in other federal, state, and local funds, a ratio of 5.9 to 1 in additional leveraged funds. Private investment totals \$1,746,144,098, a ratio of 16.2 to 1. Since inception, the DRA Federal Grant and States' Economic Development Assistance Programs have accomplished the following:

- 9,251 jobs created
- 7,578 jobs retained
- 25,497 families received improved water and sewer
- 3,745 individuals trained for jobs

Once all projects are completed the following is projected:

- 13,305 jobs created
- 9,987 jobs retained
- 35,236 families received improved water and sewer
- 11,750 individuals trained for jobs

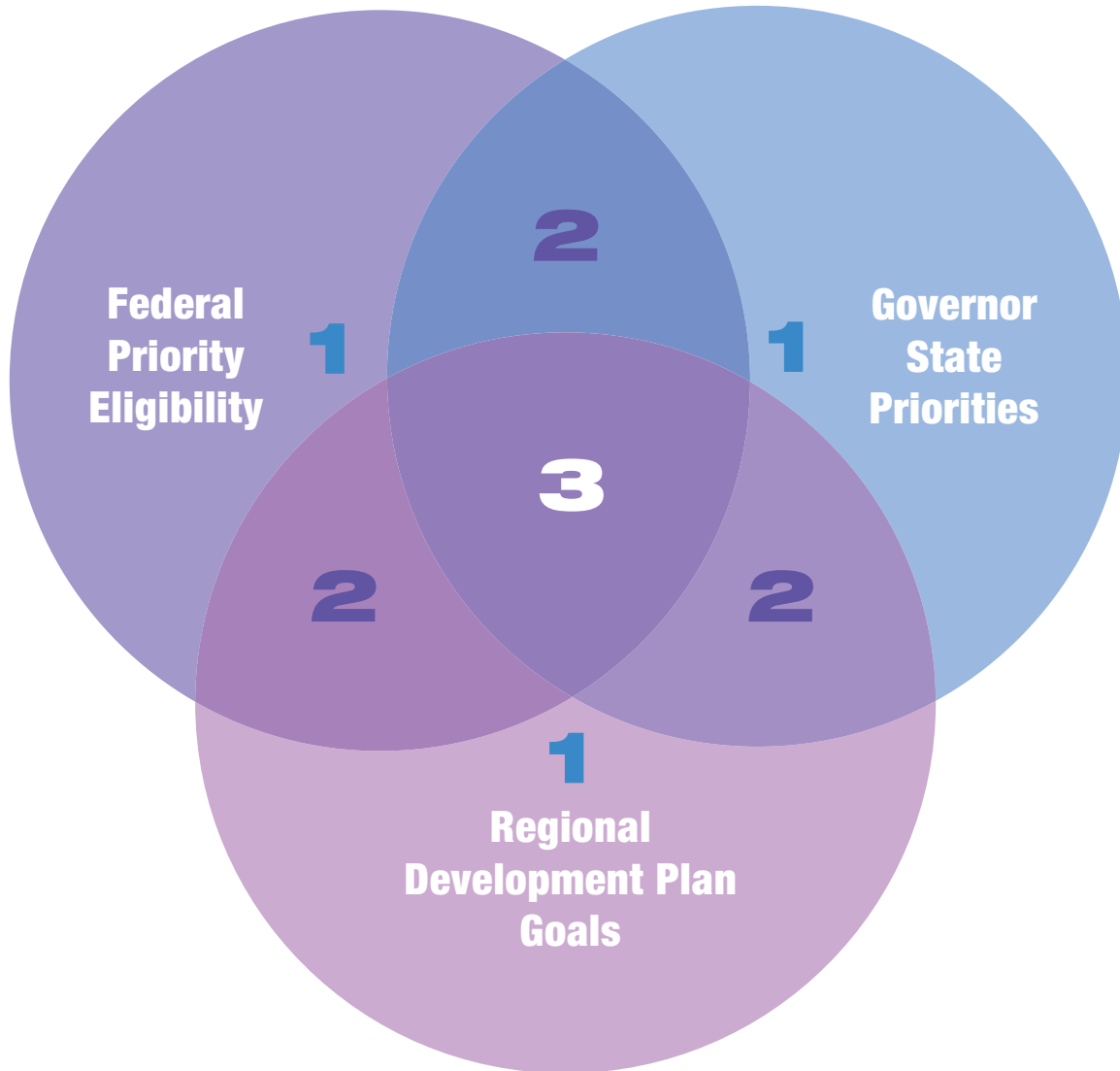
The job creation and retention numbers above are guaranteed, to a large extent, through the execution of the DRA Private Entity Participation Agreement. The Participation Agreement was developed to demonstrate the private entity's commitment to creating and/or retaining jobs and injecting capital investment into a funded project. Congress intends for DRA to track certain metrics such as jobs created, jobs retained, families affected, and people trained. DRA also tracks private leveraged investment in addition to the other public investment (other project funds).

When DRA reports to Congress the results of the prior fiscal years, there is an increased level of confidence in the metrics being reported due to this agreement. In the case of a project that benefits a private entity by allowing the entity to expand or locate a facility, DRA asks the private partner to show its commitment by agreeing to this legal document. In the event the private partner withdraws or does not meet its commitment, it is required to refund a percentage of the project investment to DRA as a "claw-back."





# DRA Project Funding Process



The following Venn Diagram depicts three additional areas of investment focus for projects determined to be eligible for funding. The three additional areas include: federal priorities, DRA Regional Development Plan goals, and goals from individual state strategic plans. Project applications should demonstrate how the proposed activities meet at least some of the priorities and goals from each of the three areas. In this way, a project becomes more competitive and rises in priority ranking.

The diagram provides a visual representation of how a project achieves the highest priority ranking. The area where all three circles overlap includes projects meeting some priority criteria in each area. Projects meeting criteria in two of the three areas have a lesser priority ranking and can be considered for funding after top priority projects have been funded.

# DRA Project Funding Priorities



The diagram lists the individual funding categories and priority criteria for each component. A project must first meet the eligibility criteria found in the outer layer before passing through to the inner layers of additional investment focus. All eligible projects will be arranged from highest to lowest priority and project selections will be made from this list. Projects not meeting eligibility criteria in the outer layer are not reviewed further to determine priority ranking and will not be considered for funding.



# Delta Regional Authority Schedule of Project Funds 2012

**Table 1 -- State Allocations**

*Fiscal Year 2012*

	<b>State Allocation</b>	<b>DRA Obligated</b>	<b>State %</b>
Alabama	\$ 1,013,555	\$ 1,013,555	10.7%
Arkansas	\$ 1,461,940	\$ 1,336,720	15.4%
Illinois	\$ 810,579	\$ 810,579	8.6%
Kentucky	\$ 850,170	\$ 850,170	9.0%
Louisiana	\$ 1,734,438	\$ 1,734,438	18.3%
Mississippi	\$ 1,467,055	\$ 1,467,055	15.5%
Missouri	\$ 1,093,874	\$ 1,093,874	11.6%
Tennessee	\$ 1,039,981	\$ 1,030,200	11.0%
	<b>\$ 9,471,590</b>	<b>\$ 9,336,591</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Table 2 -- Project Funds**

*Fiscal Year 2012*

	<b>DRA Obligated</b>	<b>Total Project Funds</b>	<b>DRA %</b>
A. Basic Public Infrastructure	\$ 3,105,516	\$ 15,839,605	19.6%
B. Transportation Infrastructure	\$ 2,718,905	\$ 11,167,091	24.4%
C. Business Development	\$ 2,314,030	\$ 7,304,083	31.7%
D. Work Development	\$ 1,045,900	\$ 2,129,528	49.1%
	<b>\$ 9,184,351</b>	<b>\$ 36,440,307</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Summary of Schedule of Funds

Table One illustrates the amounts allocated to each of the eight states using the predetermined allocation formula and criteria. Several factors are used in the Allocation Methodology and carry specific weight including the following:

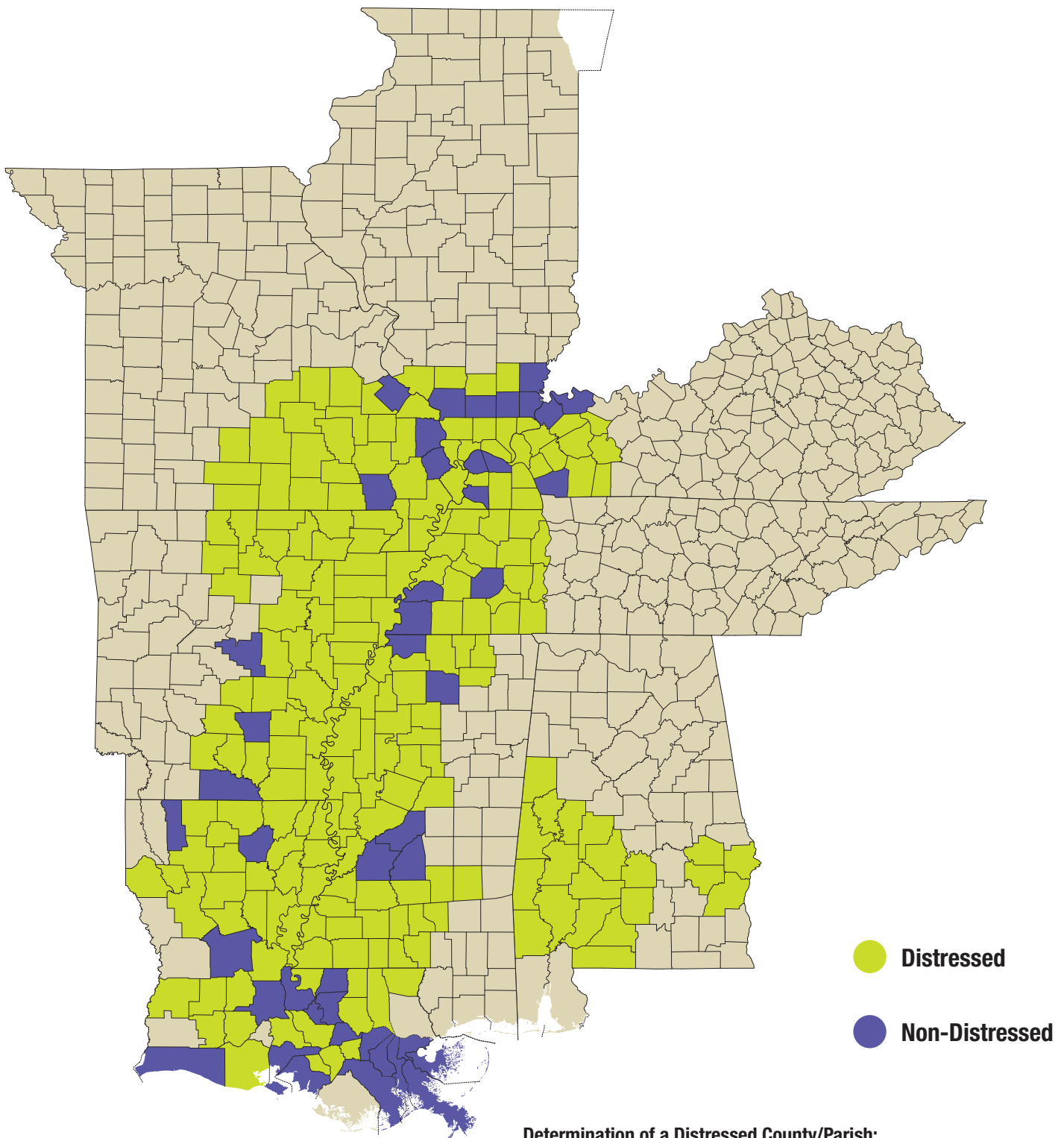
Equity Factor	50%
Population Factor	10%
Distressed Population	20%
Distressed County Area	20%
Total:	100%

Column one reflects the total amount allocated and the aggregate allocation of \$9,471,590. The Authority, in turn, obligates the funds which are apportioned to each state to certified projects for said state. In some instances - for example, Tennessee - the amount which has been obligated by the Authority for projects less than what has been allocated to the state. In such instances, it is not unusual that the state has surplus funds which have yet to be obligated to a particular project.

Table Two demonstrates the division of project development funds based upon federal priority levels. This table reflects the total amount of funds that the Authority has obligated to projects in each of the four funding categories for a total of \$9,184,351. The total project funds of \$36,440,307 are indicative of all funding resources, which have been pooled for each category to reflect the aggregate funds for each category. The percentage of DRA's contribution to the aggregate amounts of each funding category is derived by using the following formula using Basic Public Infrastructure as an example: (DRA obligated BPI of \$3,105,516/ Total Project Funds of \$15,839,605) = 19.6%.



# FY 2013 DRA Distressed/Non-Distressed Counties and Parishes

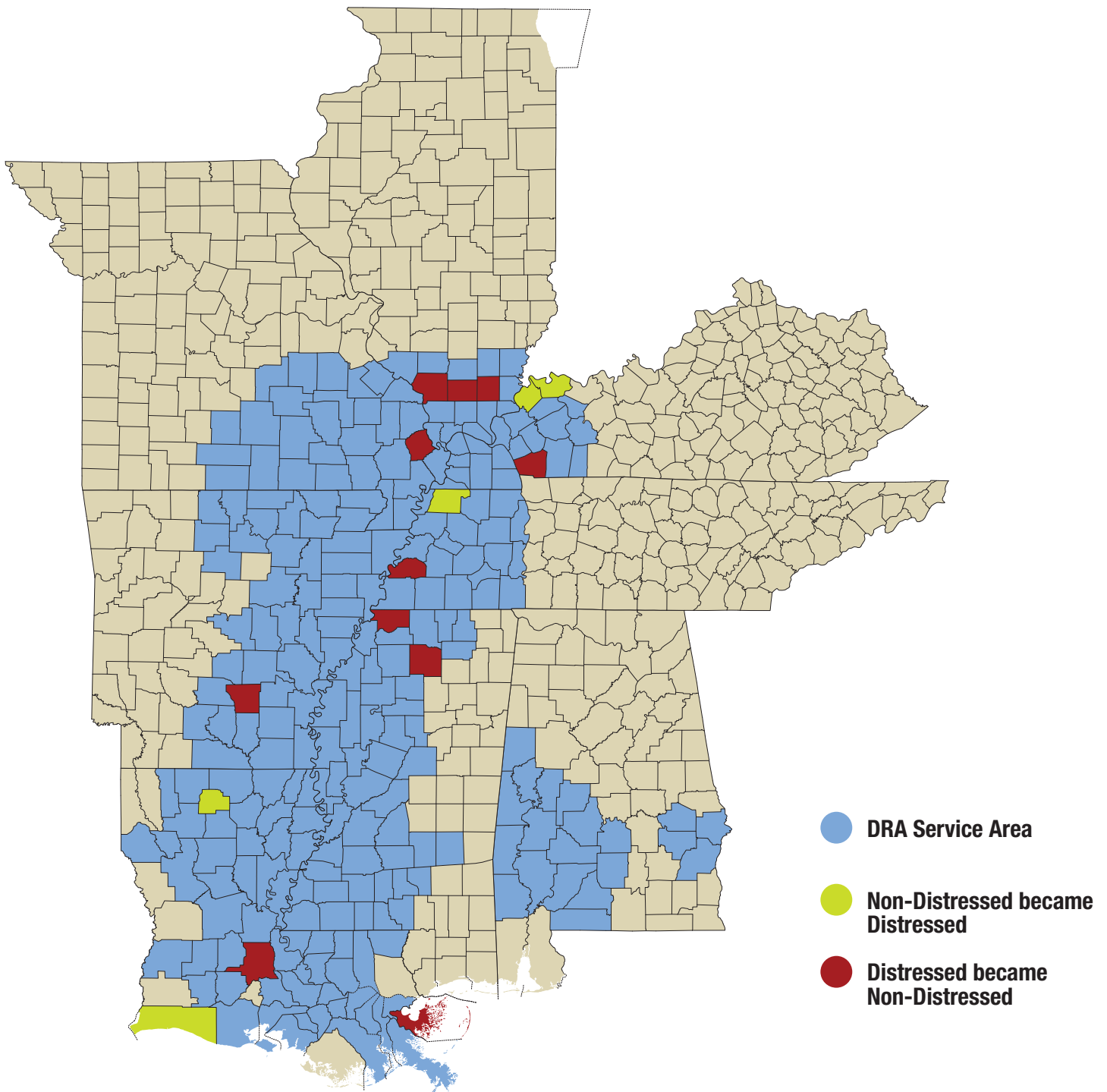


## Determination of a Distressed County/Parish:

Unemployment rate of 1 percent higher (9.8 percent) than the national average (8.8 percent) for the most recent 24-month period; or have a per capita income of 80 percent or less of the national per capita income.



# Distressed/Non-Distressed Counties/Parishes Designation Change from FY 2012 to FY 2013



**From 2012 to 2013 these counties/parishes changed designation according to the formula below:**

Unemployment rate of 1 percent higher (9.8 percent) than the national average (8.8 percent) for the most recent 24-month period; or have a per capita income of 80 percent or less of the national per capita income.



## FY 2013 DRA Distressed Counties and Parishes

In FY 2012, the DRA Service Area encompassed a total of 221 distressed counties and parishes of 252 total counties and parishes. For FY 2013, 206 counties unfortunately met the distressed threshold. To be deemed distressed, counties and parishes must meet one of the following criteria:

1. An unemployment rate of one percent higher (9.8 percent) than the national average (8.8 percent) for the most recent 24-month period; or
2. Have a per capita income of 80 percent or less of the national per capita income.

To determine pockets of distress in non-distressed counties, 2010 Census Tract information was reviewed to determine which tracts meet the distressed criteria; the 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates for unemployment and Per Capita Income were used. The following table illustrates counties and parishes whose status changed for FY13. Counties/parishes that no longer meet either of the aforementioned criteria are reassigned as non-distressed counties. Counties/parishes that may have been categorized as distressed in FY12 and now meet one or both of the formula criteria are reassigned, per guidelines, to reflect status as non-distressed counties.

## FY 2013 DRA New Distressed Counties and Parishes

ALABAMA  
(None)

KENTUCKY  
Henderson  
Union

MISSISSIPPI  
(None)

ARKANSAS  
(None)

LOUISIANA  
Cameron  
Lincoln

MISSOURI  
(None)

ILLINOIS  
(None)

TENNESSEE  
Obion

## FY 2013 DRA New Non-Distressed Counties and Parishes

ALABAMA  
(None)

KENTUCKY  
Trigg

MISSOURI  
Scott

ARKANSAS  
Cleveland

LOUISIANA  
St. Bernard  
St. Landry

TENNESSEE  
Tipton

ILLINOIS  
Jackson  
Saline  
Williamson

MISSISSIPPI  
DeSoto  
Lafayette

# FY 2013 DRA Distressed Counties and Parishes

## ALABAMA

Barbour  
Bullock  
Butler  
Choctaw  
Clarke  
Conecuh  
Dallas  
Escambia  
Greene  
Hale  
Lowndes  
Macon  
Marengo  
Monroe  
Perry  
Pickens  
Russell  
Sumter  
Washington  
Wilcox

## ARKANSAS

Arkansas  
Ashley  
Baxter  
Bradley  
Calhoun  
Chicot  
Clay  
Craighead  
Crittenden  
Cross  
Dallas  
Desha  
Drew  
Fulton  
Grant  
Greene  
Independence  
Izard  
Jackson  
Jefferson

Lawrence  
Lee  
Lincoln  
Lonoke  
Marion  
Mississippi  
Monroe  
Ouachita  
Phillips  
Poinsett  
Prairie  
Randolph  
St. Francis  
Searcy  
Sharp  
Stone  
Van Buren  
White  
Woodruff

## ILLINOIS

Alexander  
Franklin  
Hamilton  
Hardin  
Johnson  
Massac  
Perry  
Pope  
Pulaski  
Randolph  
Union

## KENTUCKY

Caldwell  
Calloway  
Carlisle  
Christian  
Crittenden  
Fulton  
Graves  
Henderson  
Hopkins

Livingston  
Lyon  
McLean  
Marshall  
Muhlenberg  
Todd  
Union  
Webster

## LOUISIANA

Acadia  
Allen  
Assumption  
Avoyelles  
Beauregard  
Bienville  
Caldwell  
Cameron  
Catahoula  
Claiborne  
Concordia  
De Soto  
East Carroll  
Evangeline  
Franklin  
Grant  
Iberville  
Jackson  
Jefferson Davis  
La Salle  
Lincoln  
Livingston  
Madison  
Morehouse  
Natchitoches  
Red River  
Richland  
St. Helena  
St. James  
St. Martin  
Tangipahoa  
Tensas  
Union  
Vermillion



# FY 2013 DRA Distressed Counties and Parishes

## LOUISIANA CONT.

Washington  
West Carroll  
West Feliciana  
Winn

## MISSISSIPPI

Adams  
Amite  
Attala  
Benton  
Bolivar  
Carroll  
Claiborne  
Coahoma  
Copiah  
Covington  
Franklin  
Grenada  
Holmes  
Humphreys  
Issaquena  
Jasper  
Jefferson  
Jefferson Davis  
Lawrence  
Leflore  
Lincoln  
Marion  
Marshall  
Montgomery  
Panola

Pike  
Quitman  
Sharkey  
Simpson  
Smith  
Sunflower  
Tallahatchie  
Tate  
Tippah  
Tunica  
Union  
Walthall  
Warren  
Washington  
Wilkinson  
Yalobusha  
Yazoo

## MISSOURI

Bollinger  
Carter  
Crawford  
Dent  
Douglas  
Dunklin  
Howell  
Iron  
Madison  
Mississippi  
New Madrid  
Oregon  
Ozark  
Pemiscot

Perry  
Phelps  
Reynolds  
Ripley  
Shannon  
St. Francois  
Stoddard  
Texas  
Washington  
Wayne  
Wright

## TENNESSEE

Benton  
Carroll  
Chester  
Crockett  
Decatur  
Dyer  
Fayette  
Gibson  
Hardeman  
Hardin  
Haywood  
Henderson  
Henry  
Lake  
Lauderdale  
McNairy  
Obion  
Weakley

# FY 2013 DRA Non-Distressed Counties and Parishes

## ALABAMA

(None)

## ARKANSAS

Cleveland  
Pulaski  
Union

## ILLINOIS

Gallatin  
Jackson  
Saline  
White  
Williamson

## KENTUCKY

Ballard  
Hickman  
McCracken  
Trigg

## LOUISIANA

Ascension  
Cameron  
East Baton Rouge  
East Feliciana  
Iberia  
Jefferson  
Lafourche

Orleans  
Ouachita  
Plaquemines  
Pointe Coupee  
Rapides  
St. Bernard  
St. Charles  
St. John the Baptist  
St. Landry  
St. Mary  
Webster  
West Baton Rouge

## MISSISSIPPI

DeSoto  
Hinds  
Lafayette  
Madison  
Rankin

## MISSOURI

Butler  
Cape Girardeau  
Scott  
St. Genevieve

## TENNESSEE

Madison  
Shelby  
Tipton

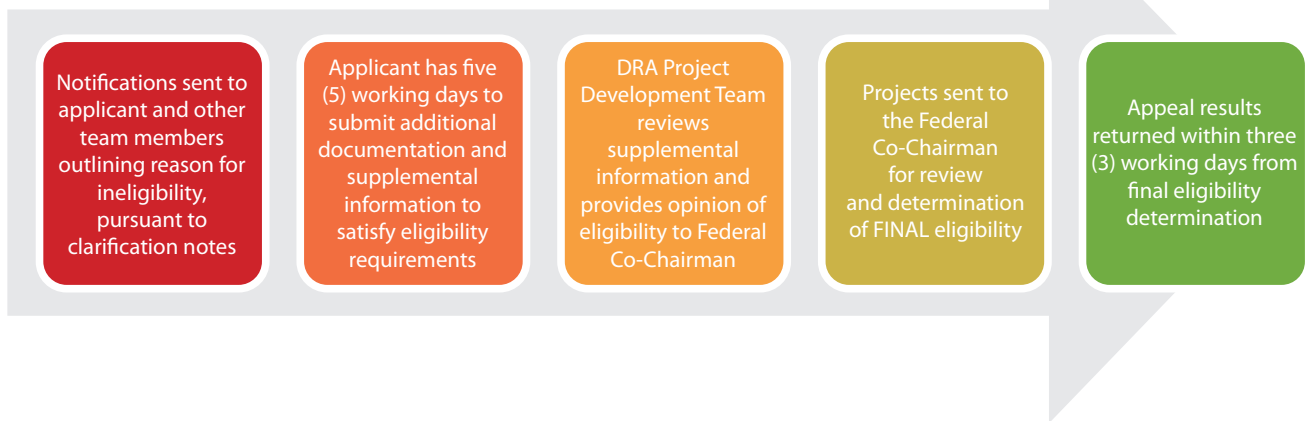




# Appeals Process

During determination of initial eligibility, there may be projects submitted that are deemed ineligible for funding. All applicants whose applications are deemed ineligible have the option to appeal. The Authority maintains appeals processes on the following conditions: 1) appeals may be submitted for ineligible projects; and 2) appeals may be submitted for projects determined eligible, but lack a priority designation, as listed in the SEDAP Manual, to address: Basic Public Infrastructure (BPI), Transportation Infrastructure (TI), Business Development (BD), or Workforce Development (WD).

## Process of Appeal for Ineligible Projects and Eligible Projects Lacking Priority Designation



### Appeals Processed

1. Notifications sent to applicant.
2. Applicant has five (5) days to submit more documentation.
3. DRA team review occurs at submission.
4. Project sent to Federal Co-Chairman.
5. Appeal results returned to applicant within three (3) working days.

Every effort is made to assist projects deemed ineligible or eligible and lacking priority status to meet the necessary criteria for funding. Of 102 applications deemed ineligible for FY 2012 SEDAP funding: 67 were appealed resulting in 53 reversals, a reversal rate of 79 percent. To determine eligibility, DRA reviews all priority areas for applicability, which can help increase a project's priority status. For complete state application statistics, see 2012 SEDAP Application Summary Table, page 18.

Federal priority eligibility for eligible projects are based upon the following criteria:

**Emergency Funding Need:** Projects shall clearly demonstrate that without DRA funding the negative implications of inaction would result in immediate and detrimental health and/or safety issues for the constituents served. This project will carry the highest priority and also the highest threshold for meeting this guideline.

**Innovation and Small Business:** Projects include business and industry prospects committed to job creation and/or retention through the execution of a DRA Participation Agreement. This category also includes projects addressing healthy workforce solutions as a component of Business Development which can clearly demonstrate measurable results in health metrics, and improved employment data for a specific employer or business sector.

**Multiple Funding Partners:** Projects include multiple funding sources, both public and/or private, and can be shown as leverage to the DRA investment.

**Regional Approach:** Projects provide benefit to constituents in multiple counties or parishes, or multiple municipalities within a single county or parish.



# DRA 2012 States' Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP) Timeline and Instructions

## **April 11 -- DRA 2013 SEDAP Program Announced**

The Delta Regional Authority, consisting of the Federal Co-Chairman and the Governors of the eight participating member states:

Mr. Chris Masingill	Federal Co-Chairman;
Governor Robert Bentley	Alabama;
Governor Mike Beebe	Arkansas;
Governor Pat Quinn	Illinois;
Governor Steve Beshear	Kentucky;
Governor Bobby Jindal	Louisiana;
Governor Phil Bryant	Mississippi;
Governor Jay Nixon	Missouri; and
Governor Bill Haslam	Tennessee

Will make available to its Members of Congress, the region's 45 Local Development Districts (LDDs), and the general public the application package for the DRA 2012 SEDAP Program.

*(Please note: as DRA periodically updates its site with new information, clarifications, etc., it will be advantageous to frequently refer to [www.dra.gov](http://www.dra.gov) to learn of any updates).*

## **May 29 -- Projects are due to LDDs by 5:00 p.m. central time**

The LDDs will be the "front-line" facilitators within their districts to publicize, educate, and provide technical assistance for the DRA 2013 SEDAP application process. Commencing on April 11, each LDD will begin publicizing the DRA 2013 SEDAP by hosting public information forums and through all other means appropriate to their respective client bases.

Each LDD will be the principle contact for the provision of technical assistance to the applicants in its area throughout the 30-day period from announcement to application deadline.

On a separate but more important note, most DRA 2013 SEDAP projects will be administered by agencies other than the DRA. These agencies are referred to as "Administering Agencies." If either USDA Rural Development or the Economic Development Administration is a participant in the project, DRA will have a supplement award and the applicable aforementioned Agency will administer the DRA supplement award. Otherwise, the LDD will administer the DRA portion of the project.

*(Please note: these services - publicity, education, and technical assistance for application preparation - will be provided at no cost to the public, as DRA has allocated funds to, and has an agreement with, each LDD specifically for these purposes).*

## **June 12 -- Projects due to Delta Regional Authority from the Local Development Districts**

The Local Development District shall forward all completed applications to the Authority.

## **June 19 -- All projects reviewed by DRA for eligibility and priority designation**

Assessment of project eligibility for the DRA 2013 SEDAP will be completed no later than June 19 and will be determined by the Federal Co-Chairman, based on:

1. The eligibility guidelines as prescribe by the U.S. Congress in the “Delta Regional Authority Act of 2000,” as amended (Attachment A—Eligibility);
2. Delta Regional Authority policy promulgations (Attachment A.1 Distressed Counties); and
3. The “Clarification Notes” described in the SEDAP Manual.

Upon completion of his eligibility determinations, the Federal Co-Chairman will forward that list to each participating state member. He will also notify the applicants and the Administering Agencies.

**July 5 -- In-eligible projects notified**

In-eligible projects are notified and given a chance to appeal.

**July 12 -- Appeals due from in-eligible projects**

Appeals are due to Delta Regional Authority by 5:00 p.m. central time.

**July 18 -- Final determinations**

Final determination of appeals by Delta Regional Authority.

**July 30-31 -- Project determination meetings**

Project determination meetings held with each state.

**August 7 -- Certifications**

DRA receives project certifications from each state.

**August 8 -- Board votes**

Board votes on 2012 projects (majority of states and Federal Co-Chairman consent required for approval).

**August 15 -- Project Selection Notification**

Local Development Districts and awardee are notified of selections; documents (Memorandum of Agreement, Participation Agreement, etc.) go out to grantees.

**September 5 -- Awardees submit required documents**

Documents are due to Delta Regional Authority by awardees.

**September 6 -- Notice to Proceed**

Notice to Proceed goes out to awardees from Delta Regional Authority.



## 2012 DRA Federal SEDAP Application Summary

States	Total Apps Submitted	Apps Deemed Eligible	Apps Deemed Ineligible	Ineligible Apps Appealed	Number of Ineligible Reversed
Alabama	15	6	9	3	3
Arkansas	21	6	15	5	5
Illinois	24	14	10	8	8
Kentucky	12	2	10	10	5
Louisiana	61	34	27	21	14
Mississippi	34	21	13	4	3
Missouri	16	7	9	7	7
Tennessee	11	2	9	9	8
<b>Totals</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>53</b>

The above table outlines the number of total applications submitted by state, for FY12. It includes those projects deemed eligible and ineligible along with the total number of appeals and reversal of appeals. An increase in both total applications submitted and applications deemed eligible occurred from FY 11 to FY 12. In FY 11, there were a total of 156 applications submitted for SEDAP funding, with 72 projects being deemed eligible. This is in contrast to a total of 194 total applications submitted in FY12, with a total of 92 deemed eligible: an increase of 38 applications and 20 eligible projects. In FY 11, there were a total of 21 ineligibility appeals, with 14 being reversed. Again, there was an increase in FY 12 ineligibility appeals and reversals of 67 and 53, respectively.



# Glossary of Commonly Used Terms

- 1. Administrative Notice:** a form and method used by DRA to make and track policy and procedure changes.
- 2. Automated Application Website:** a web-based portal, found on [www.dra.gov](http://www.dra.gov), that allows applicants to fill out and submit applications for DRA investment programs and provides back-office support and tools for the management of constituent portfolios.
- 3. Critical Development Projects:** projects including \$300M or more in investment (public and/or private), and - other than for technology-related projects - 350 or more jobs created and/or retained.
- 4. Delta Region Service Area:** any of the areas comprising the 252 counties and parishes in Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee that the Authority serves.
- 5. Distressed Counties and Parishes:** an annual assessment is made of all DRA counties and parishes to determine if each will be considered distressed or non-distressed for the following fiscal year and funding cycle; this determination is currently based on the Economic Development Administration's (EDA) formula for determining economic distress.
- 6. DRA Obligated:** this number represents an amount of DRA funding, that has been obligated against specific projects with General Services Administration (GSA).
- 7. Emergency/Contingency Funds:** funds set aside for projects defined separately as emergencies related to natural disasters, fire, or unforeseen/unexpected developments that present a health and/or safety risk to communities; or contingency projects which fall outside the normal scope and/or timeline of the annual investment program.
- 8. Expedited Process:** one of several funding pathways, the "Expedited Process" will be initiated by the state when an immediate need exists for an economic development prospect project.
- 9. Federal Priority Eligibility Criteria:** investment priorities established by the Authority, which have been adopted from the President's administration; currently the four federal priorities for DRA investment are: 1) Innovation and Small Business, 2) Regional Approach, 3) Multiple Funding Partners, and 4) Emergency Funding Need.
- 10. Families Affected:** under normal circumstances, the number of families (households) receiving benefit from projects providing water and/or sewer service in residential areas.
- 11. Funding Cycle:** the sequence of activities involved in the process of awarding funds for projects. It commences with the formal announcement of the availability of the funds, inviting applications with preset deadlines, analyzing & reviewing the applications, assessing the conformity, and awarding.
- 12. Investment:** as defined by the Authority, shall be any commitment of time, support and resources provided to a given project.



**13. Local Development District (LDD):** sub-regional economic development entities (45 within the DRA Region) that partner with DRA to assist constituents in the Delta with various project development activities, provide technical assistance support, and oversee project management.

**14. Notice to Proceed:** a letter issued to the awardee that provides authorization to begin accruing expenses toward the project.

**15. Priority Status Designation:** an eligible project that meets at least one goal or priority from each of the three additional areas of investment focus: 1) Federal Priorities (set by the administration), 2) Regional Development Plan goals, and 3) DRA State Plan goals and/or priorities.

**16. Private Entity Participation Agreement:** a binding agreement between DRA and a private entity, developed to demonstrate the private entity's commitment to creating and/or retaining jobs and injecting capital investment into a project, including claw-back provisions to protect the DRA investment.

**17. SEDAP Funds:** the States' Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP) is the primary investment tool of the Authority.

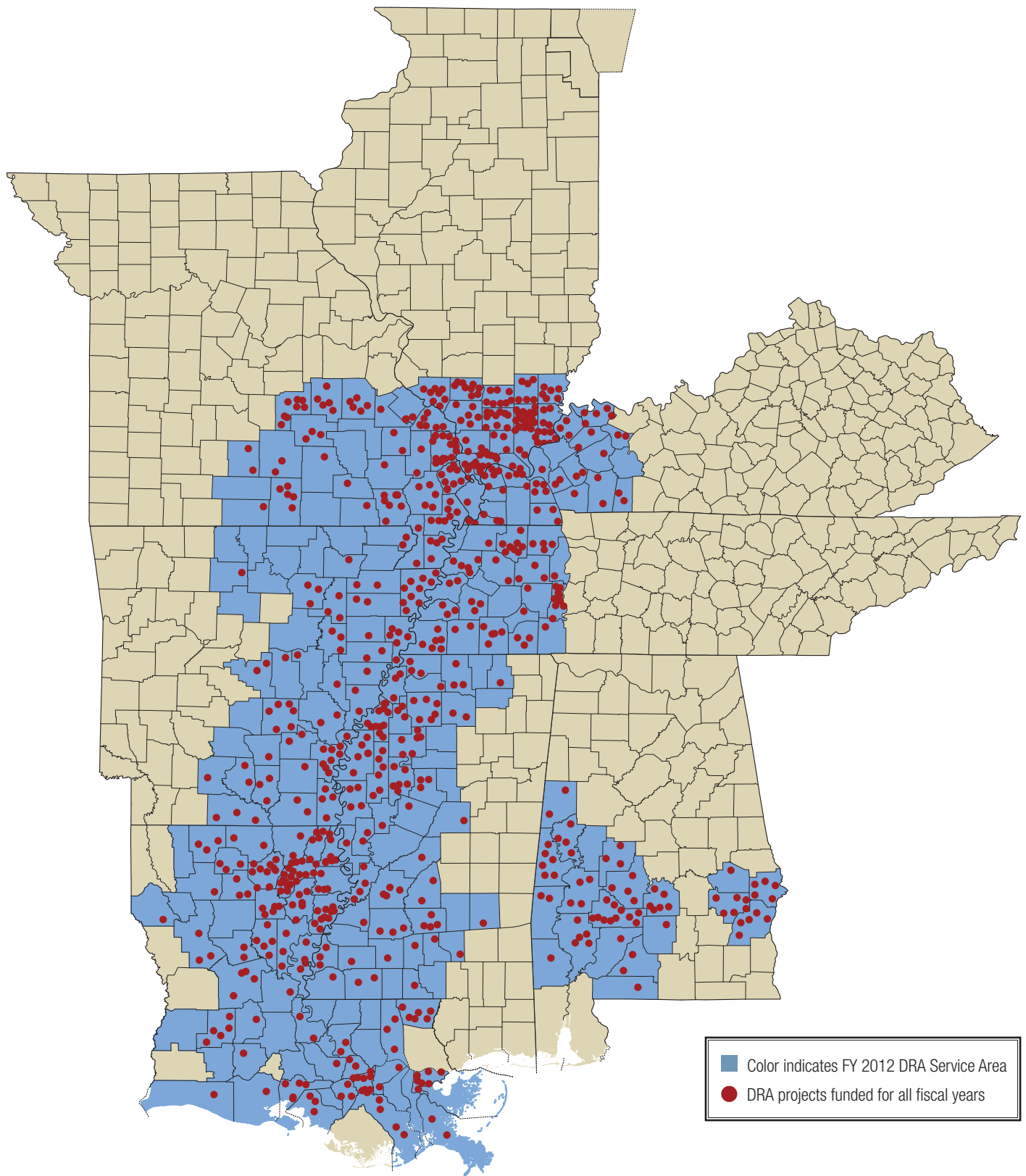
**18. State Allocation:** each year a majority of DRA's annual appropriation is set aside for its SEDAP investments; this amount is divided between the eight states using an allocation formula that results in a net amount available for SEDAP projects in each state.

**19. Total Project Funds:** this number represents an amount which includes all DRA funds and all other public sources of funds that will be used as direct investment in the project(s).



## **Delta Regional Authority Service Area**

# Delta Regional Authority Service Area



# Cumulative regional benefits from DRA

The numbers below are for FY 2002 through 2012.

Total DRA projects	718
DRA Investment	\$ 108,019,579
Other Public Investment	\$ 640,065,041
Other Private Investment	\$ 1,746,144,098
Overall Total Investment	\$ 2,494,228,718
Leverage Ratio	22.09
Jobs Created	9,251
Jobs Retained	7,578
Individuals Trained for Jobs	3,745
Families Affected	25,497
Projected Jobs Created	13,605
Projected Jobs Retained	9,987
Projected Individuals Trained for Jobs	11,750
Projected Families Affected	35,236
Digital Literacy	13,000

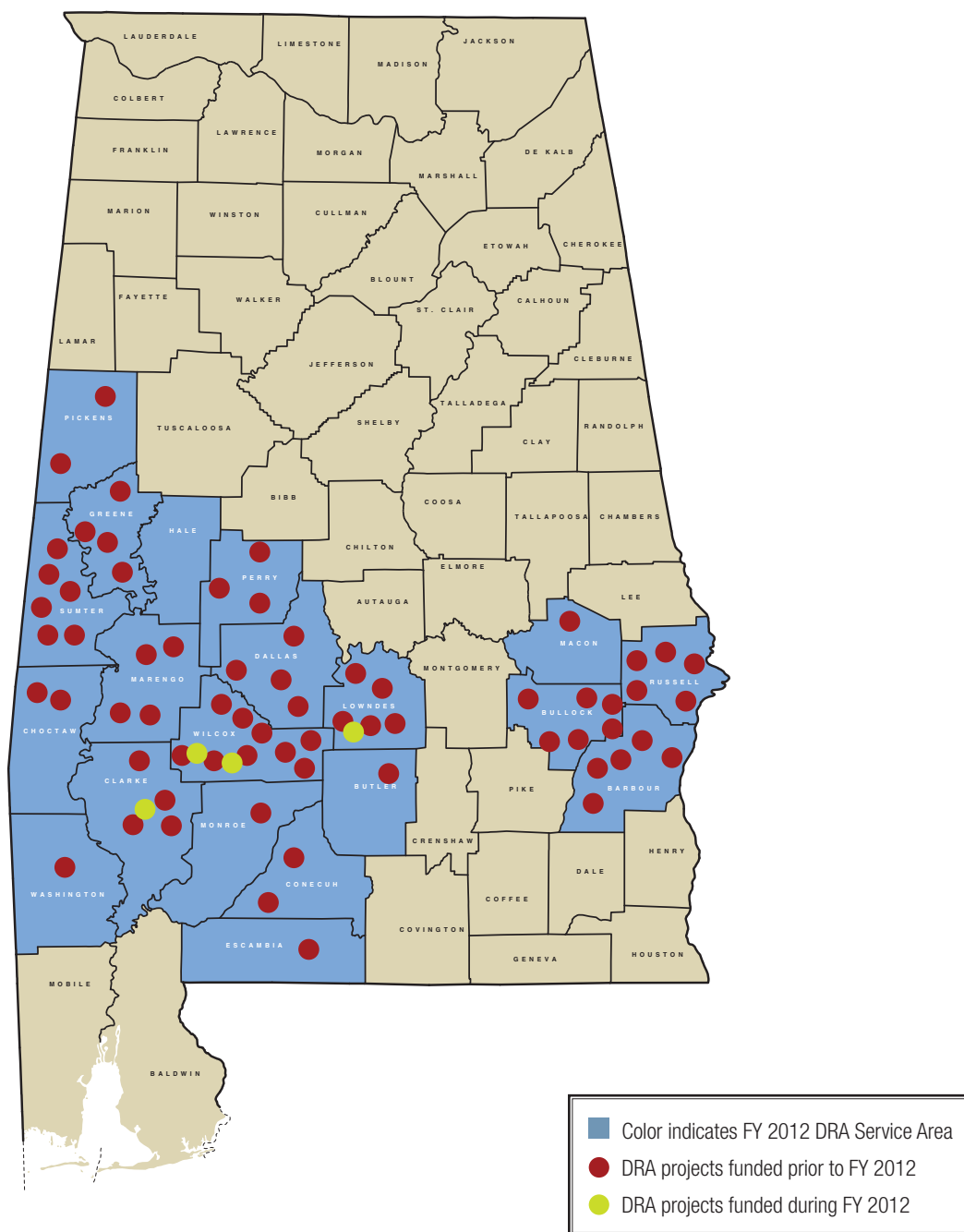


**“Bringing quality jobs to the Delta doesn’t help the region’s economic challenges unless there is a skilled and educated workforce to fill them. The Delta Regional Authority’s investments in workforce skills training and in small business development are crucial to long-term efforts to grow the Delta’s economy.”**

– Ivey L. Allen, President, Foundation for the Mid South



# DRA Projects in Alabama



## Alabama Counties Served by DRA

Barbour	Choctaw	Dallas	Hale	Marengo	Pickens	Washington
Bullock	Clarke	Escambia	Lowndes	Monroe	Russell	Wilcox
Butler	Conecuh	Greene	Macon	Perry	Sumter	



# Cumulative Alabama benefits from DRA

*The numbers below are for FY 2002 through 2012.*

Total DRA projects	70
DRA Investment	\$ 11,015,994
Other Public Investment	\$ 22,958,114
Other Private Investment	\$ 12,000,000
Overall Total Investment	\$ 45,974,108
Leverage Ratio	3.17
Jobs Created	953
Jobs Retained	1,671
Individuals Trained for Jobs	14
Families Affected	3,262
Projected Jobs Created	1,793
Projected Jobs Retained	0
Projected Individuals Trained for Jobs	0
Projected Families Affected	423

**“Nothing is more important to me than creating jobs for the people of Alabama. Our partnership with the [DRA] supports that goal. In 2012, the [DRA] helped with infrastructure development and land purchases for projects that are bringing hundreds of new jobs to people who need them. The [DRA] also worked with us to provide medical and dental assistance and other services that are making a positive difference in our communities.”**

– Governor Robert Bentley, *Alabama*



# Alabama benefits from DRA

*The numbers below are for FY 2012.*

Total DRA projects	4
DRA Investment	\$ 1,013,555
Other Public Investment	\$ 7,454,000
Other Private Investment	\$0
Overall Total Investment	\$ 8,467,555
Leverage Ratio	7.35
Projected Jobs Created	680



**“These are important local projects to improve infrastructure for our families, residents and businesses in the delta. They will support local manufacturing, and are targeted to help create jobs in areas with high unemployment.”**

**– Senator Jeff Sessions**



# **Alabama FY 2012 SEDAP Project Summaries**

# Fiscal Year 2012 Alabama Project Summaries

## 1. Mosses Sewer Extension

**Awardee:** Town of Mosses

**Awardee Contact:** Mayor Walter Hill

**County:** Lowndes, AL

**Federal ID#:** 63-0815896

**Telephone:** 334-563-9141

**Congressional District:** 7th

### Funding:

DRA	\$ 138,555	100.00%
Total	\$ 138,555	100.00%

**Description:** This project will connect 37 low income households to the Mosses sewer treatment facility. Awarded funds are the town's only option for connecting citizens and ridding them of faulty septic tanks or field lines that empty into a covered ground hole.

**Benefits/Outcomes:** Implementing this project will directly impact the health and welfare of 37 households in the project area. This project will give the beneficiaries the opportunity to abandon their failing septic systems or in some cases have a sewer system for the first time. It is estimated that the project will result in the installation of 15,000 linear feet of collection pipe.

## 2. GD Copper USA

**Awardee:** Wilcox County Industrial Development Authority

**Awardee Contact:** Floyd Harris, Chairman

**County:** Wilcox, AL

**Federal ID#:** 20-5243306

**Telephone:** 334-682-4219

**Congressional District:** 7th

### Funding:

DRA	\$ 300,000	100.00%
Total	\$ 300,000	100.00%

**Description:** The Wilcox County Industrial Development Authority purchased the land along Wilcox County Road 27. The project is located in West Wilcox County. The \$300,000 request will be for purchase of land. The land has been cleared and a construction contract has been executed with Hoar Construction. The construction of the facility will take fifteen months for Phase I.

**Benefits/Outcomes:** The Capitol investment is \$100,000 for the facility and the company will bring an annual payroll estimated at \$10,000.00. There will be 1,000 construction jobs in the fifteen month period.

# Fiscal Year 2012 Alabama Project Summaries

## 3. ATRC Clarke County Water Mapping

**Awardee:** Alabama Tombigbee Regional Commission

**Awardee Contact:** John Riggs

**County:** Wilcox, AL

**Federal ID#:** 63-0588933

**Telephone:** 334-682-4234

**Congressional District:** 7th

### Funding:

DRA		\$ 75,000	100.00%
Total		\$ 75,000	100.00%

**Description:** DRA funding will be used to digitally map all public water systems in Clarke County, Alabama. Using a Trimble GPS unit, field personnel will travel with an employee of each water system and map assets. The assets being mapped include: all water lines over 3", pumps, booster stations, tanks, fire hydrants, and treatment facilities.

**Benefits:** With the water mapping project, the cities/towns and county will have a tool to use in their planning efforts. The information can be used in industrial recruitment, commercial and residential development. Individual water systems will also benefit by having the information available to aid in maintenance and repairs to the systems. The office of Water Resources will also be able to provide this information to other state agencies to help with industrial recruitment, and funding for projects.

## 4. Thomasville Land Purchase Phase II

**Awardee:** City of Thomasville Land Purchase Phase II

**Awardee Contact:** City of Thomasville

**County:** Clarke, AL

**Federal ID#:** 63-6001375

**Telephone:** 334-636-5827

**Congressional District:** 7th

### Funding:

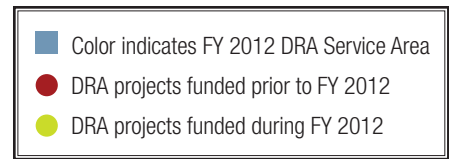
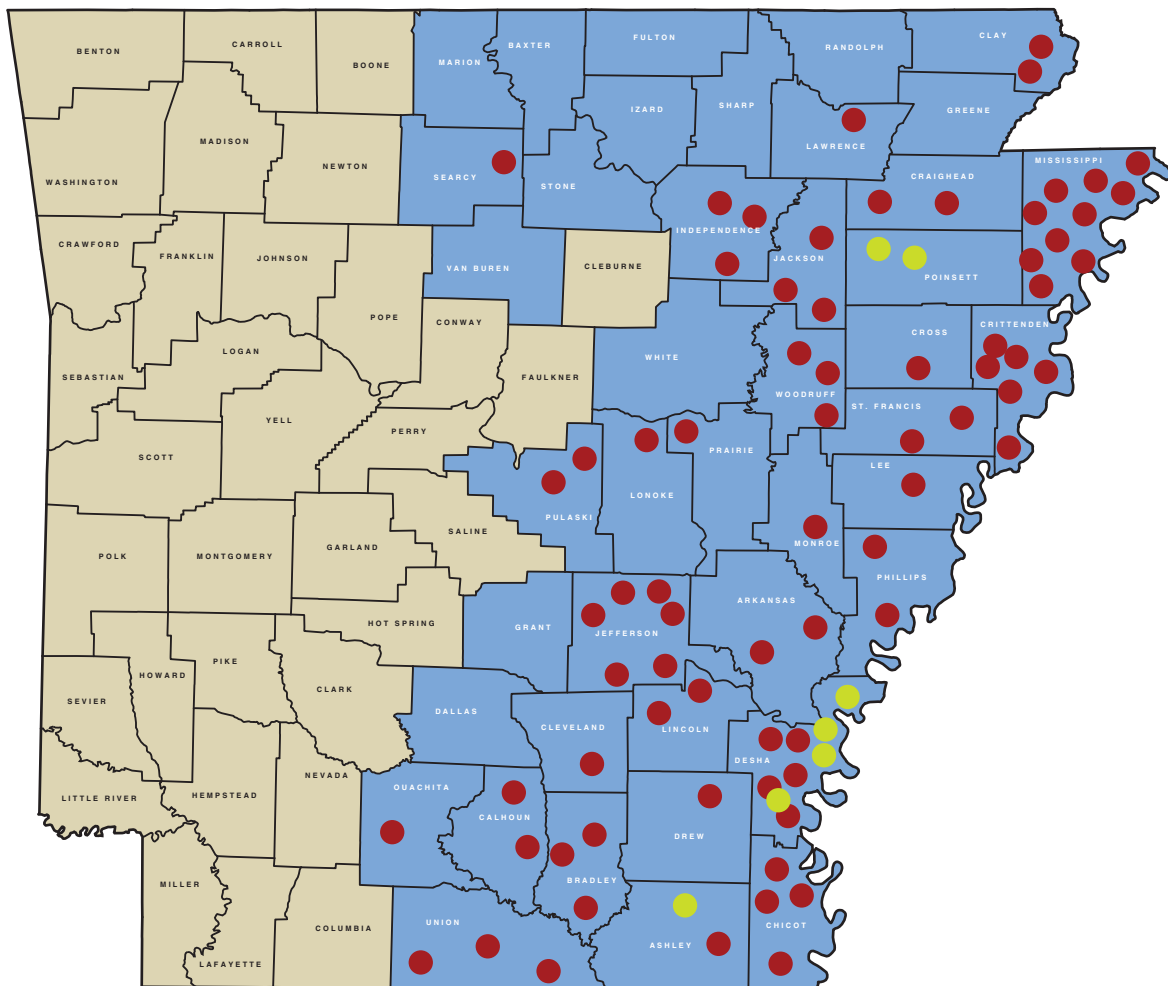
DRA		\$ 500,000	100.00%
Total		\$ 500,000	100.00%

**Description:** Additional land purchase after Lakeside steel was bought by JMC Steel.

**Benefits/Outcomes:** Funding in the amount of \$500,000.00 to purchase 120 acres for a manufacturing facility to be located, will result in 80 new jobs to be created with an estimated payroll of \$3,000,000.00; along with an increased city tax revenue and because of the tremendous power usage of the facility, the City of Thomasville will see an annual franchise fee increase of \$100,000.00 .



# DRA Projects in Arkansas



## Arkansas Counties Served by DRA

Arkansas	Clay	Desha	Izard	Lonoke	Poinsett	St. Francis
Ashley	Cleveland	Drew	Jackson	Marion	Prairie	Stone
Baxter	Craighead	Fulton	Jefferson	Mississippi	Pulaski	Union
Bradley	Crittenden	Grant	Lawrence	Monroe	Randolph	Van Buren
Calhoun	Cross	Greene	Lee	Ouachita	Searcy	White
Chicot	Dallas	Independence	Lincoln	Phillips	Sharp	Woodruff

# Cumulative Arkansas benefits from DRA

*The numbers below are for FY 2002 through 2012.*

Total DRA projects	84
DRA Investment	\$ 17,497,914
Other Public Investment	\$ 105,045,293
Other Private Investment	\$ 313,344,500
Overall Total Investment	\$ 435,887,707
Leverage Ratio	23.9
Jobs Created	1,450
Jobs Retained	306
Individuals Trained for Jobs	1,827
Families Affected	4,264
Projected Jobs Created	1,035
Projected Jobs Retained	758
Projected Individuals Trained for Jobs	989
Projected Families Affected	1,982

**“The Delta Regional Authority continues its vital efforts to lead in job creation and job training in an area where they are needed most. The DRA’s ability to leverage government funding with private dollars is often the most successful formula for building important infrastructure. The continued investments by the DRA mean a great deal for the future viability of the Arkansas Delta and other communities beyond our borders.”**

– Governor Mike Beebe, *Arkansas*





# Arkansas benefits from DRA

The numbers below are for FY 2012.

Total DRA projects	9
DRA Investment	\$ 1,336,720
Other Public Investment	\$ 2,680,965
Other Private Investment	\$ 82,500
Overall Total Investment	\$ 4,100,185
Leverage Ratio	2.1
Projected Jobs Created	169
Projected Jobs Retained	98
Projected Individuals Trained for Jobs	320

“The social and economic challenges facing the Arkansas Delta cannot be overcome by one person, one need, one solution or one community at a time. The Delta Regional Authority creates an environment of collaboration among key stakeholders where best practices can be shared, limited resources leveraged and challenged addresses on a larger scale.”

— Heather Maxwell, Executive Director, Crossroads Coalition





# **Arkansas FY 2012 SEDAP Project Summaries**

# Fiscal Year 2012 Arkansas Project Summaries

## 1. Trumann Innovative Workforce Development Center

**Awardee:** City of Trumann

**Awardee Contact:** Sheila Walters

**County:** Poinsett, AR

**Federal ID#:** 63-0815896

**Telephone:** 870-483-5355

**Congressional District:** 1st

### Funding:

DRA	\$ 206,000	42.12%
Local	\$ 283,000	57.87%
Total	\$ 489,000	100.00%

**Description:** The training center will deliver educational opportunities for existing employees of regional industry and workforce readiness training to increase educational attainment in the Delta region.

**Benefits:** The education and training programs at the facility will help create a more competitive and productive workforce, and can be instrumental in the recruitment of new businesses to the area.

## 2. Arkansas City

**Awardee:** City of Arkansas City

**Awardee Contact:** Carolyn Blissett

**County:** Desha, AR

**Federal ID#:** 71-6000159

**Telephone:** 870-877-2306

**Congressional District:** 1st

### Funding:

DRA	\$ 125,215	78.15%
County	\$ 35,000	21.84%
Total	\$ 160,215	100.00%

**Description:** This project provides for paving a gravel street approximately 1085 feet long and extends past the site of a new grocery store.

**Benefits/Outcomes:** Capitalizing on increased traffic, the new store will be able to retain 3 to 4 employee's jobs.

# Fiscal Year 2012 Arkansas Project Summaries

## 3. RIDC Infrastructure Project

**Awardee:** Rison Industrial Development Corp.

**Awardee Contact:** Sheila Walters

**County:** Poinsett, AR

**Funding:**

**Federal ID#:** 71-0623970

**Telephone:** 870-483-5355

**Congressional District:** 1st

DRA		\$ 120,000	100.00%
Total		\$ 120,000	100.00%

**Description:** DRA funding shall be used to make improvements to Rison Industrial Corporation's facility in Cleveland County, Arkansas to accommodate the River Ridge Equipment, LLLP. River Ridge Equipment re-manufactures parts for logging skidders. A skidder is a type of heavy equipment vehicle used in logging operations.

**Benefits:** The improvements to the access road and the facility will permit River Ridge Equipment to create 5 new jobs in the Cleveland County area. These improvements will also accommodate the current and future truck traffic and streamline the re-manufacturing process in the facility.

## 4. Delta Center

**Awardee:** Desha County

**Awardee Contact:** Mark McElroy

**County:** Desha, AR

**Federal ID#:** 71-60000165

**Telephone:** 870-877-2426

**Congressional District:** 1st

**Funding:**

DRA		\$ 259,505	90.27%
Participant		\$ 27,968	9.72%
Total		\$ 952,500	100.00%

**Description:** The purpose of this project is to create recreation and employment for the people of Desha County. The increase of a water supply line from 2 to 4 inches from the Wolfe Kelly Association to the site and add a booster station. The line would be on property the County already has easement for and a permanent easement would be given to the County by the company for the booster pump location.

**Benefits/Outcomes:** This project shall result in putting local people to work. The first jobs are already being experienced with the construction of the Phase 1 facilities. Completion of this construction is expected September 2012 and the second benefit will take place permanent jobs for Desha County residents at livable wages. Further construction jobs will be created by Phase II which should be complete by February 2013. Over 100 permanent jobs will be created.



# Fiscal Year 2012 Arkansas Project Summaries

## 5. Port of Crossett Improvements

**Awardee:** City of Crossett

**Awardee Contact:** Marshall McCormick

**County:** Ashley, AR

**Federal ID#:** 71-6002030

**Telephone:** 870-364-8745

**Congressional District:** 4th

### Funding:

DRA	\$ 200,000	67.52%
Applicant	\$ 3,600	1.22%
State	\$ 89,000	30.04%
Local	\$ 3,600	1.22%
Total	\$ 296,200	100.00%

**Description:** The Port of Crossett is a public-owned facility which offers businesses in the area access to water transportation. The improvements to the Port of Crossett will increase the economic development opportunities resulting from use of the Port and will utilize a collaborative funding effort, which satisfies the Arkansas DRA Strategic Plan Priorities/Goals.

**Benefits:** By completing the proposed upgrades and improvements to the Port of Crossett, the City will both increase the safety to crews using the Port and modernize the facility to make it more accessible to larger barges, which will lead to increased usage of the Port by area industries and help attract future prospective industries.

## 6. University Drive Infrastructure Project

**Awardee:** City of Pine Bluff, Arkansas

**Awardee Contact:** Carl Reddus

**County:** Desha, AR

**Federal ID#:** 71-6009954

**Telephone:** 870-730-2000 Ext. 7

**Congressional District:** 1st

### Funding:

DRA	\$ 250,000	13.16%
Local	\$ 1,650,000	86.84%
Total	\$1,900,000	100.00%

**Description:** The purpose of this project is to create recreation and employment for the people of Desha County. The increase of a water supply line from 2 to 4 inches from the Wolfe Kelly Association to the site and add a booster station. The line would be on property the County already has easement for and a permanent easement would be given to the County by the company for the booster pump location.

# Fiscal Year 2012 Arkansas Project Summaries

**Benefits/Outcomes:** This project shall result in putting local people to work. The first jobs are already being experienced with the construction of the Phase 1 facilities. Completion of this construction is expected September 2012 and the second benefit will take place permanent jobs for Desha County residents at livable wages. Further construction jobs will be created by Phase II which should be complete by February 2013. Over 100 permanent jobs will be created.

## 7. Public Rail Access

**Awardee:** Monticello Economic Development Commission

**Awardee Contact:** Juanita McDaniel

**County:** Desha, AR

**Federal ID#:** 71-0834524

**Telephone:** 870-367-3076

**Congressional District:** 1st

### Funding:

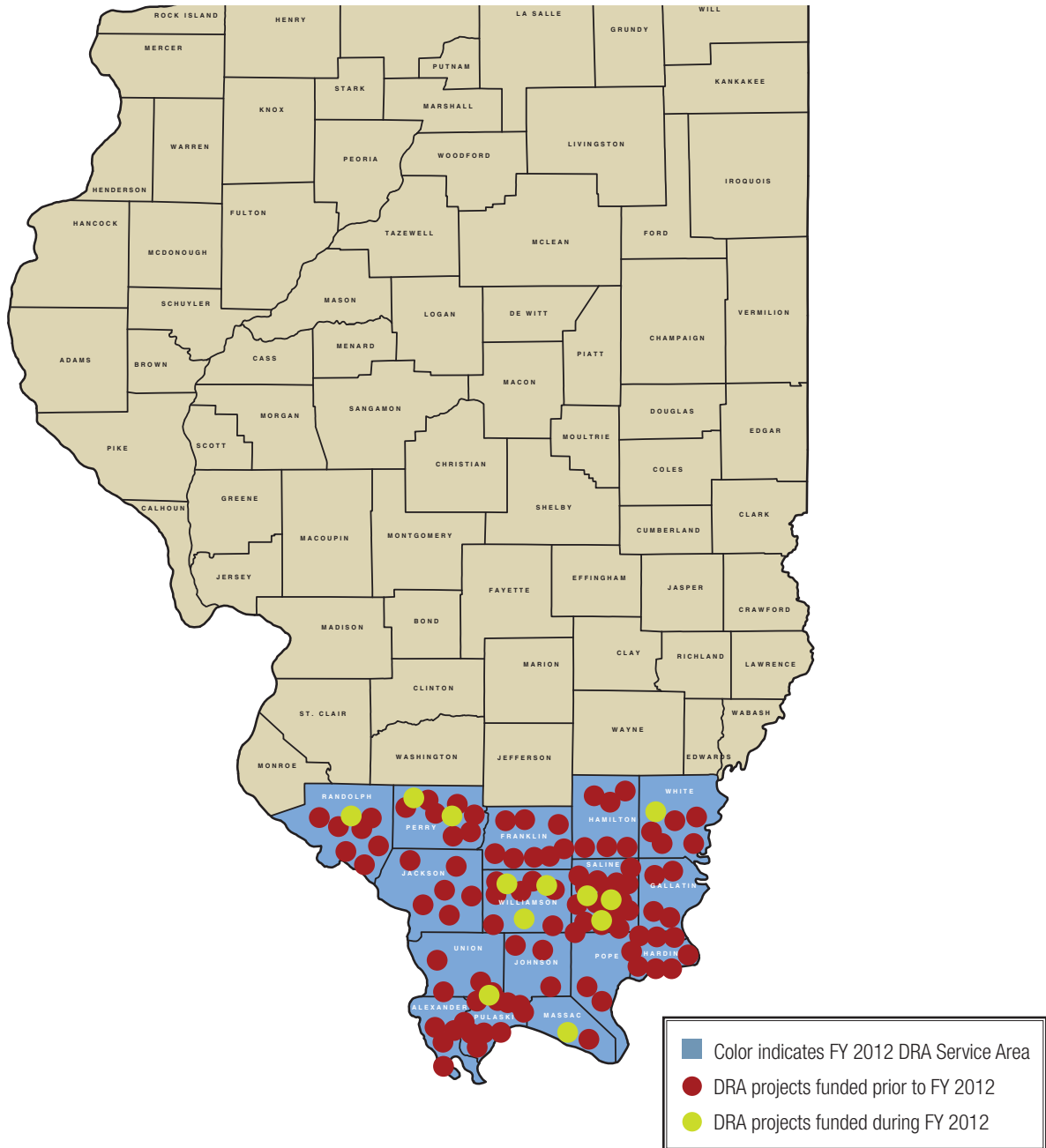
DRA	\$ 275,000	31.43%
Applicant	\$ 27,500	3.14%
Local	\$ 240,000	24.43%
Private	\$ 32,500	4.06%
State	\$ 300,000	34.29%
Total	\$ 875,000	100.00%

**Description:** Hood Packaging Company employs 143 people. Hood owns an industrial rail spur which begins 154 feet from the Arkansas Midland Railroad switch and extends approximately 2235 feet into their facility. Hood Packaging has explored options for reestablishing rail service a number of times since 2008, but the cost to rehabilitate the track has been a barrier.

**Benefits/Outcomes:** The Monticello Economic Development Commission's Rail Project provides the infrastructure necessary to accommodate existing and future businesses. Without adequate infrastructure, existing area businesses will not have the ability to access future opportunities. The Industrial Park will be unable to attract future industries and the area will continue to experience population decline and high unemployment.



# DRA Projects in Illinois



## Illinois Counties Served by DRA

Alexander	Hamilton	Johnson	Pope	Saline	Williamson
Franklin	Hardin	Massac	Pulaski	Union	
Gallatin	Jackson	Perry	Randolph	White	



## Cumulative Illinois benefits from DRA

*The numbers below are for FY 2002 through 2012.*

Total DRA projects	107
DRA Investment	\$ 8,587,657
Other Public Investment	\$ 54,359,628
Other Private Investment	\$ 33,351,746
Overall Total Investment	\$ 96,299,031
Leverage Ratio	10.2
Jobs Created	749
Jobs Retained	1,637
Individuals Trained for Jobs	1,333
Families Affected	3,099
Projected Jobs Created	505
Projected Jobs Retained	1,382
Projected Individuals Trained for Jobs	6,915
Projected Families Affected	424

**“These major infrastructure investments in Southern Illinois will create jobs and drive economic growth while improving the quality of life for local residents.”**

– Governor Pat Quinn, *Illinois*



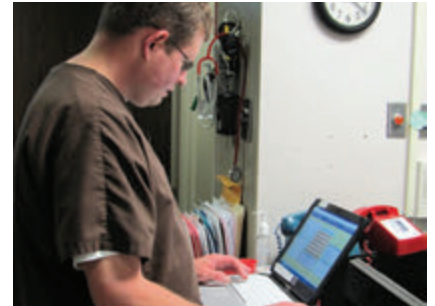
# Illinois benefits from DRA

*The numbers below are for FY 2012.*

Total DRA projects	12
DRA Investment	\$ 810,579
Other Public Investment	\$ 3,070,992
Other Private Investment	\$ 4,000,000
Overall Total Investment	\$ 7,881,571
Leverage Ratio	8.7
Projected Jobs Created	112
Projected Jobs Retained	140

**“Critical infrastructure funding from the Delta Regional Authority is providing us the opportunity to take the first steps toward a fixed route transit system in the newly designated Carbondale Urbanized Area. In addition to the direct jobs created, the project will enhance our ability to support employment transportation across an entire region of Southern Illinois.”**

**– Bill Jung, CEO, Rides Mass Transit District**





# **Illinois FY 2012 SEDAP Project Summaries**

# Fiscal Year 2012 Illinois Project Summaries

## 1. Phase II, Prairie du Rocher-Modoc Levee

**Awardee:** Village of Prairie du Rocher

**Awardee Contact:** Earnest Doiron

**County:** Randolph, IL

**Federal ID#:** 37-6019566

**Telephone:** 618-284-7171

**Congressional District:** 12th

### Funding:

DRA		\$ 100,000	76.92%
Applicant		\$ 30,000	23.07%
Total		\$ 130,000	100.00%

**Description:** Continuation of Levee improvements and recertification to include additional soil borings, linin and grouting of gravity drains and additional engineering for under seepage problems encountered and slope stability issues.

**Benefits:** Certification and accreditation of the Prairie du Rocher-Modoc Levee to help secure 153 existing jobs, and remove constraints on economic development and community development within the village will likely bring new resident s and small business to support the workforce influx.

## 2. Rides Mass Transit, Marion P&R Project

**Awardee:** Rides Mass Transit District

**Awardee Contact:** Bill Jung

**County:** Saline, IL

**Federal ID#:** 37-1269185

**Telephone:** 618-564-2287

**Congressional District:** 15th

### Funding:

DRA		\$ 100,000	71.43%
State		\$ 40,000	28.57%
Total		\$ 140,000	100.00%

**Description:** Land acquisition/construction of park and ride/transfer center lots for public transit routes and ride sharing along IL Route 13.

**Benefits/Outcomes:** The public transportation system will be key support to many jobs that will be created in the project area. Regional connectivity is a benefit to both employees and employers and contributes to the economic success of the Delta counties. The construction and staffing of the lot shall yield 4 full time positions. It is estimated that 3,848 individuals from Williamson County and 12,320 individuals from all affected counties will benefit from this project.

# Fiscal Year 2012 Illinois Project Summaries

## 3. Village of Carrier Mills-Embankment Repair

**Awardee:** Village of Carrier Mills  
**Awardee Contact:** Sarah Farmer  
**County:** Saline, IL

**Federal ID#:** 37-0842866  
**Telephone:** 618-2527463  
**Congressional District:** 15th

### Funding:

DRA		\$ 25,000		83.33%
Local		\$ 5,000		16.67%
Total		\$ 30,000		100.00%

**Description:** The project consists of the repair of an area of embankment on Illinois Route 45 that has formed holes caused by erosion during heavy rain. Currently, the Illinois Department of Transportation maintains the roadway, but it is the responsibility of the Village to maintain the embankment and drainage. DRA funds will be used to purchase and install rip rap to secure the embankment and prevent future erosion problems.

**Benefits:** This project would improve drainage and secure infrastructure by reducing the possibility of erosion and flooding during heavy rains.

## 4. Ullin Flood Sewer Repair

**Awardee:** Village of Ullin  
**Awardee Contact:** Lisa Thurston  
**County:** Pulaski, IL

**Federal ID#:** 37-0947793  
**Telephone:** 618-634-2284  
**Congressional District:** 12th

### Funding:

DRA		\$ 25,000		18.97%
FEMA		\$ 106,797		81.03%
Total		\$ 131,797		100.00%

**Description:** The Village of Ullin will replace a lift station that was washed away by the 2011 flood.

**Benefits/Outcomes:** By replacing the lift station, the businesses located at the interstate 57 exchange will be able to retain their current employment. Two new businesses will be able to continue with their plans for location in the area. The existing businesses in the area will be able to expand and new businesses can continue to locate at the Interstate exchange.



# Fiscal Year 2012 Illinois Project Summaries

## 5. Herrin South Connector Road

**Awardee:** City of Herrin

**Awardee Contact:** Thomas Summers

**County:** Williamson, IL

**Federal ID#:** 37-6002360

**Telephone:** 618-942-3177

**Congressional District:** 12th

### Funding:

DRA		\$ 100,000		7.84%
Local		\$ 130,000		10.24%
FHWA		\$ 1,040,000		81.89%
Total		\$ 1,270,000		100.00%

**Description:** Fund the construction of a new federal aid route connecting Grand Avenue and Rushing in Herrin, Illinois. This will open up land for potential and planned development and alleviate safety hazards surrounding the Rushing Drive/IL Route 148 intersection.

**Benefits:** The new federal aid route will provide another access point to and from Rushing Drive. This will allow for the City to eliminate left hand turns onto Illinois 148. Additionally, this new federal aid route will provide access to future and planned development that this roadway would serve. Upon completion, the new route will provide transportation access for future development of approximately 87 acres for phase 1 and approximately 77 acres for Phase Two.

## 6. Crab Orchard and Egyptian Railroad Bridge Improvements

**Awardee:** Crab Orchard and Egyptian Railroad

**Awardee Contact:** Kathy Crane

**County:** Williamson, IL

**Federal ID#:** 37-1080126

**Telephone:** 618-993-5769

**Congressional District:** 19th

### Funding:

DRA		\$ 35,000		72.03%
Local		\$ 13,590		27.97%
Total		\$ 48,590		100.00%

**Description:** The Crab Orchard and Egyptian Railroad will improve failing bridge structure along the railway.

**Benefits:** The rehabilitating of these bridges directly benefits the seven Marion businesses that rely on COER short-line rail system in Marion, Illinois. By ensuring the railway's continued use, the businesses will continue operation. If the Marion rail line

# Fiscal Year 2012 Illinois Project Summaries

were to be closed, these businesses would be forced into layoffs and possible closures. COER will help the area retain jobs and businesses in the area by completing this project.

## 7. City of Carmi Industrial Park Road

**Awardee:** City of Carmi

**Awardee Contact:** David Port

**County:** White, IL

**Federal ID#:** 37-6002336

**Telephone:** 618-382-8118

**Congressional District:** 15th

### Funding:

DRA		\$ 100,000	6.69%
EDA		\$ 1,081,842	72.31%
State		\$ 313,992	21.00%
Total		\$ 1,495,034	100.00%

**Description:** The City of Carmi is proposing to extend a road, create a new road, and extend water lines in what will be known as the Carmi Industrial Park. Two businesses have committed to locate in the park.

**Benefits/Outcomes:** The creation of 11.92 acre Small Business Park. There will be a creation of a new access road that will connect Highway 1 and Highway 14. In addition, the expansion of one business and creation of one business will result in the creation of 15 new jobs.

## 8. City of Harrisburg GIS System

**Awardee:** City of Harrisburg

**Awardee Contact:** Eric Gregg

**County:** Saline, IL

**Federal ID#:** 37-6001994

**Telephone:** 618-926-5063

**Congressional District:** 15th

### Funding:

DRA		\$ 100,000	86.96%
Local		\$ 15,000	13.04%
Total		\$ 115,000	100.00%

**Description:** The City of Harrisburg, Illinois, is continuing to repair and replace broken lines and disruptions in their water and sewer line system. The GIS system would allow the city workers to locate a broken valve or manhole cover within 20 minutes versus what could normally take up to two days.





# Fiscal Year 2012 Illinois Project Summaries

**Benefits:** Benefits will include, saving time and work locating problematic areas of water or sewer line, saving money by not having to pay overtime when a leak can't be located quickly and saving the residents from being without water and the use of sewer systems. In addition to, preventing the possibility of contaminated water or sewer to back up and flow into the system or above ground.

## 9. City of Du Quoin Public Transit Facility

**Awardee:** City of Du Quoin

**Awardee Contact:** John Rednour

**County:** Perry, IL

**Federal ID#:** 3 7-6001795

**Telephone:** 618-542-3841

**Congressional District:** 12th

### Funding:

DRA	\$ 25,000	58.55%
Local	\$ 17,700	41.45%
Total	\$ 42,700	100.00%

**Description:** This project involved design, bidding and construction of a park-and-ride facility in the center of Du Quoin, which is adjacent to the Du Quoin Amtrak station. The design will include an all-weather covered seating area, driving lanes for loading and unloading passengers onto shuttle type transit buses, accessible features compliant with ADA, landscaping, and integrated passenger access to both public parking and the Amtrak station.

**Benefits/Outcomes:** The initial expectation is that the facility will accommodate between 20 and 25 public transit riders per day to places of employment and/or places of economic development assets on a routine basis, plus visitors on approximately 25 weekends per year.

## 10. Metropolis/Massac County Transload Transportation Project

**Awardee:** Metropolis/Massac County Port District

**Awardee Contact:** Richard Kruger

**County:** Massac, IL

**Federal ID#:** 27-2601305

**Telephone:** 618-524-9302

**Congressional District:** 15th

### Funding:

DRA	\$ 75,000	28.30%
Applicant	\$ 190,000	71.70%
Total	\$ 265,000	100.00%

# Fiscal Year 2012 Illinois Project Summaries

**Description:** Phase I of a planned III phase project to construct and operate an intermodal, container freight terminal on the Ohio River near Metropolis, Illinois.

**Benefits/Outcomes:** Phase one of this project will reduce vehicle miles required for shipment. By consolidating shipments more products can be moved to market or to distribution centers with fewer vehicles and less energy. By becoming a competitive transportation hub, freight terminal in southern Illinois with potential global initiatives there is potential to become a major economic engine for the region.

## 11. Village of Dowell Flood Mapping

**Awardee:** Village of Dowell

**Awardee Contact:** Dennis Stewart

**County:** Perry, IL

**Federal ID#:** 37-0995072

**Telephone:** 618-568-1513

**Congressional District:** 12th

### Funding:

DRA		\$ 25,000		88.97%
Local		\$ 3,100		11.03%
Total		\$ 28,100		100.00%

**Description:** The purpose of this project is to have an engineering firm map the elevations of the community. The data collected will be run through FEMA's hydraulic program to calculate the risk of flooding in the community. The result of this work will be validation of the new drainage infrastructure installed to prevent flooding in Dowell.

**Benefits/Outcomes:** The benefit of this project will be relief from FEMA's flood map and the resulting insurance rates. The result would be felt by the local residents as their flood insurance requirement would dissipate and new businesses could locate to Dowell without fear of placing their business in the flood plain. The proposed gas station/restaurant would provide local job opportunities and a place to eat. These benefits and the resulting increase in the local tax base would be beneficial for the local community.



# Fiscal Year 2012 Illinois Project Summaries

## 12. WC Meridian Road

**Awardee:** Metropolis/Massac County Port District

**Awardee Contact:** Brent Gentry

**County:** Williamson, IL

**Federal ID#:** 27-2601305

**Telephone:** 618-998-2247

**Congressional District:** 12th

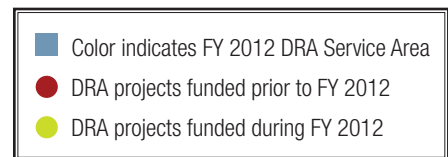
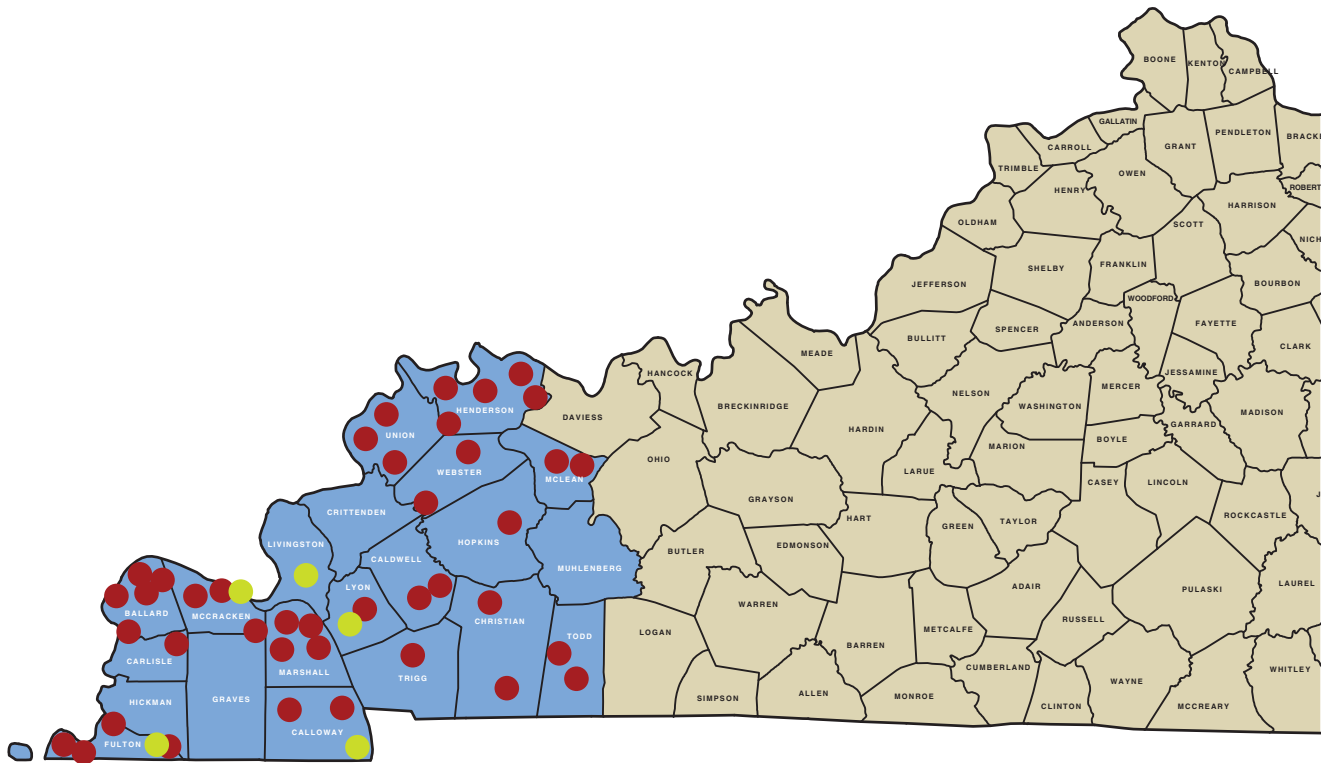
### Funding:

DRA	\$ 256,500	71.70%
Applicant	\$ 83,900	28.30%
Total	\$ 339,900	100.00%

**Description:** Infrastructure improvements to Meridian Road located in Williamson County in support of further economic development and job creation.

**Benefits/Outcomes:** The benefit of the project will be the development of 64 new full-time and 98 new part-time employment positions as well as the retention of 47 full-time and 49 part-time positions. The improvements will afford the continued tourism and economic growth for the area currently being developed as well as providing visitors the ability to safely utilize the tourism site.

# DRA Projects in Kentucky



## Kentucky Counties Served by DRA

Ballard	Carlisle	Fulton	Hickman	Lyon	McLean	Trigg
Caldwell	Christian	Graves	Hopkins	Marshall	Muhlenberg	Union
Calloway	Crittenden	Henderson	Livingston	McCracken	Todd	Webster



## Cumulative Kentucky benefits from DRA

*The numbers below are for FY 2002 through 2012.*

Total DRA projects	45
DRA Investment	\$ 8,973,272
Other Public Investment	\$ 82,556,879
Other Private Investment	\$ 125,550,000
Overall Total Investment	\$ 217,080,151
Leverage Ratio	23.2
Jobs Created	985
Jobs Retained	966
Families Affected	26
Projected Jobs Created	317
Projected Jobs Retained	353
Projected Families Affected	296

**“The Delta Regional Authority has been a tremendous partner with Kentucky throughout the past year; providing drought assistance, supporting the development of medical facilities, boosting business expansion and allowing barge traffic into our ports. In the upcoming year, we look forward to continuing our work with the DRA to enhance the quality of life in Kentucky and throughout the region.”**

**– Governor Steve Beshear, *Kentucky***

# Kentucky benefits from DRA

*The numbers below are for FY 2012.*

Total DRA projects	5
DRA Investment	\$ 850,170
Other Public Investment	\$ 167,551
Other Private Investment	\$ 150,000
Overall Total Investment	\$ 1,167,721
Leverage Ratio	0.4
Projected Jobs Retained	3
Projected Families Affected	300



**“For over 10 Years, DRA has been a key partner with the Area Development Districts in West Kentucky to provide funding for infrastructure projects that provide jobs and economic opportunity for the citizens of the Kentucky Delta Region.”**

**– Chris Sutton, Pennyriple Area Development District**





# **Kentucky FY 2012 SEDAP Project Summaries**



# Fiscal Year 2012 Kentucky Project Summaries

## 1. Caldwell County Regional Broadband Infrastructure

**Awardee:** Lyon County Fiscal Court

**Awardee Contact:** Wade White

**County:** Lyon, KY

**Federal ID#:** 61-0953294

**Telephone:** 270-388-7311

**Congressional District:** 1st

### Funding:

DRA	\$ 155,500	100.00%
Total	\$ 155,500	100.00%

**Description:** Provide high speed (broadband) access and Middle Mile (100Mbps) connectivity to geographical areas in the counties that are under or un-served.

**Benefits:** The proposed project will enhance the quality of life for citizens throughout Kentucky's Delta counties. Residents will maintain equal access to broadband internet, and such access will afford new and innovative business opportunities, as well as improving their overall quality of life. Additionally, existing business and industry will derive numerous benefits from this project, as they will maintain state-of the –art communications infrastructure to serve existing and future clients. Educational institutions within the region have consistently increased the size and scope of their distance learning opportunities, and broadband internet access in rural areas will allow new populations to take advantage of such prospects.

## 2. Conveyor Expansion Project

**Awardee:** Hickman-Fulton Riverport Authority

**Awardee Contact:** Greg Curlin

**County:** Fulton, KY

**Federal ID#:** 61-0933529

**Telephone:** 270-236-2563

**Congressional District:** 1st

### Funding:

DRA	\$ 153,720	100.00%
Total	\$ 153,720	100.00%

**Description:** This project will provide for the construction and installation of a conveyor that will allow the Riverport to handle products that it cannot handle with the current system.

**Benefits/Outcomes:** The completion of this project will allow the Hickman-Fulton County Riverport to greatly expand its normal business operations. It will allow for increased barge traffic which will benefit the local harbor service, provide for a more cost effective means of commodity shipment, and bring more truck traffic through the community.



# Fiscal Year 2012 Kentucky Project Summaries

## 3. Livingston Hospital & Healthcare Services, Inc. Digital Mammography Project

**Awardee:** Livingston Hospital & Healthcare

**Awardee Contact:** Wade White

**County:** Livingston, KY

**Federal ID#:** 61-0518022

**Telephone:** 270-988-2299

**Congressional District:** 1st

### Funding:

DRA		\$ 227,230		79.87%
Applicant		\$ 55,255		19.42%
Total		\$ 282,485		100.00%

**Description:** Purchase a digital mammography unit to serve clients of the Livingston Hospital & Healthcare Services.

**Benefits:** The major expected benefit of this project will be the ability of the Livingston Hospital and Healthcare Services, Inc. to serve the citizens of the community locally with digital mammography service.

## 4. Murray West Business Park Improvements

**Awardee:** Murray Calloway County EDC

**Awardee Contact:** Mark Manning

**County:** Calloway, KY

**Federal ID#:** 61-1034835

**Telephone:** 270-762-3789

**Congressional District:** 1st

### Funding:

DRA		\$ 216,794		71.53%
Other		\$ 86,296		28.47%
Total		\$ 303,090		100.00%

**Description:** The Murray-Calloway County Economic Development Corporation is seeking funds to establish a turn lane, proper traffic signals, and a new entrance to the Murray West Business Park.

**Benefits:** The project will benefit Murray, Calloway County, and the region by creating a better economic climate in order to attract new jobs into the area. The additional property will be one more asset that the community will have to offer companies.

# Fiscal Year 2012 Kentucky Project Summaries

## 5. St. Nicholas Family Clinic (Diabetes Monitoring and Coaching Program)

**Awardee:** St. Nicholas Family Clinic

**Awardee Contact:** Brandi Harless

**County:** McCracken, KY

**Federal ID#:** 61-1260945

**Telephone:** 270-575-3247

**Congressional District:** 1st

### Funding:

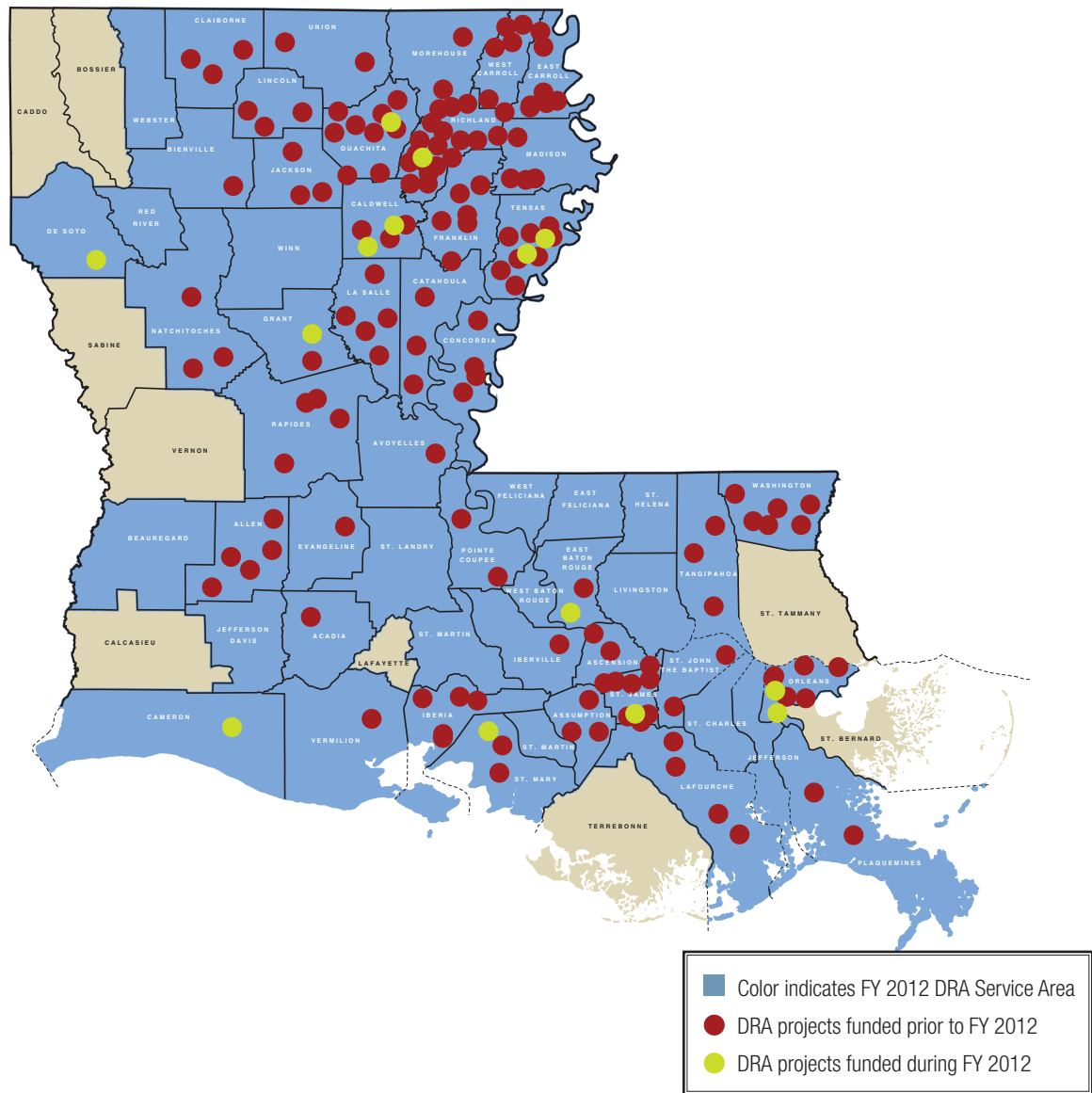
DRA	\$ 96,926	79.65%
Other	\$ 26,296	21.34%
Total	\$ 123,222	100.00%

**Description:** Enhance and expand diabetics monitoring and coaching plan in McCracken County for employees without health insurance coverage.

**Benefits:** This project will enhance and expand a diabetes monitoring and coaching program for working individuals without health insurance. With a higher diabetes rate in the region than in the rest of the state of Kentucky, managing and treating the disease has become an important factor in maintaining a healthy workforce. Since the clinic is only treating employed individuals without health insurance, the remote monitoring of diabetes levels will cut down on work interruptions for employers due to employees not taking as much time off.



# DRA Projects in Louisiana



## Louisiana Counties Served by DRA

Acadia	Cameron	Evangeline	La Salle	Ouachita	St. Helena	Union
Allen	Catahoula	Franklin	Lafourche	Plaquemines	St. James	Vermillion
Ascension	Claiborne	Grant	Lincoln	Pointe Coupee	St. John the Baptist	Washington
Assumption	Concordia	Iberia	Livingston	Rapides	St. Landry	Webster
Avoyelles	De Soto	Iberville	Madison	Red River	St. Martin	West Baton Rouge
Beauregard	East Baton Rouge	Jackson	Morehouse	Richland	St. Mary	West Carroll
Bienville	East Carroll	Jefferson	Natchitoches	St. Bernard	Tangipahoa	West Feliciana
Caldwell	East Feliciana	Jefferson Davis	Orleans	St. Charles	Tensas	Winn

# Cumulative Louisiana benefits from DRA

*The numbers below are for FY 2002 through 2012.*

Total DRA projects	156
DRA Investment	\$ 19,916,998
Other Public Investment	\$ 91,837,834
Other Private Investment	\$ 592,400,000
Overall Total Investment	\$ 704,154,832
Leverage Ratio	34.4
Jobs Created	1,623
Jobs Retained	1,282
Individuals Trained for Jobs	27
Families Affected	7,039
Projected Jobs Created	5,107
Projected Jobs Retained	1,558
Projected Individuals Trained for Jobs	107
Projected Families Affected	17,476

“The parishes and municipalities in our state are tasked with tackling a wide array of obstacles, and the [DRA] plays a pivotal role in helping these entities by providing a funding source that they otherwise would not have. This critical support will provide many with the means to make worthwhile improvements. It is vital we continue building upon this important partnership to strengthen Louisiana. We cannot afford to wait for economic recovery to find its way to us...we have to go out together and make it happen.”

– Congressman Rodney Alexander



# Louisiana benefits from DRA

*The numbers below are for FY 2012.*

Total DRA projects	14
DRA Investment	\$ 1,734,438
Other Public Investment	\$ 10,945,631
Other Private Investment	\$ 207,000,000
Overall Total Investment	\$ 219,680,069
Leverage Ratio	125.7
Projected Jobs Created	451
Projected Jobs Retained	320
Projected Individuals Trained for Jobs	30
Projected Families Affected	7,481

**“Thanks to the DRA – the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, has been able to make significant upgrades over the last five years to our Potable Water Treatment Facility with the Delta Regional Authority’s awards of \$580,000, helping us meet Department of Health and Hospital guidelines and gives our citizens the quality potable drinking water they deserve.”**

**– Terry Borne, Mayor, Gramercy, Louisiana**





# **Louisiana FY 2012 SEDAP Project Summaries**



# Fiscal Year 2012 Louisiana Project Summaries

## 1. St. James Parish Raw Water Intake Project

**Awardee:** St. James Parish

**Awardee Contact:** Timmy Roussel

**County:** St. James, LA

**Federal ID#:** 72-6001228

**Telephone:** 225-562-2279

**Congressional District:** 2nd

### Funding:

DRA	\$ 200,000	39.06%
Local	\$ 390,000	60.93%
Total	\$ 590,000	100.00%

**Description:** DRA funds will be used for the design and construction of a new raw water intake pumping station. The work included with this project is the installation of a new raw water intake line from the Mississippi River to the water treatment plant. The new line will be 16 inches in diameter as compared to the existing intake line, which is 10 inches in diameter.

**Benefits:** This project will benefit the 5,551 residents of St. James Parish, the East Bank of Ascension Parish, and a portion of the Town of Litcher. It will strengthen the local infrastructure, thereby providing support for continued industrial expansion that will significantly impact economic development throughout the region.

## 2. Tensas Community Health Center

**Awardee:** Tensas Community Health Center

**Awardee Contact:** Greg Curlin

**County:** Tensas, LA

**Federal ID#:** 61-0933529

**Telephone:** 270-236-2563

**Congressional District:** 5th

### Funding:

DRA	\$ 60,000	100.00%
Total	\$ 60,000	100.00%

**Description:** The object of this project is to purchase x-ray equipment for primary care and dental x-ray equipment and dental software; along with computers to provide expanded diagnostic services to the residents of Tensas Parish, Louisiana.

**Benefits/Outcomes:** The results and accomplishments to be derived from this project will be providing improved diagnostic care for both primary and dental care patients. With improved primary care and improved oral health, the population of Tensas Parish residents should see and live an improved quality of life.

# Fiscal Year 2012 Louisiana Project Summaries

## 3. North Desoto Water System

**Awardee:** North Desoto Water System

**Awardee Contact:** Andy Bridges

**County:** De Soto, LA

**Federal ID#:** 72-0827807

**Telephone:** 318-925-9-2940

**Congressional District:** 4th

### Funding:

DRA		\$ 134,438	30.95%
Local		\$ 300,000	69.05%
Total		\$ 434,438	100.00%

**Description:** Upgrade the distribution system to improve potable water to current customers and meet growing demand for commercial customers for economic development and to attract jobs.

**Benefits:** The system will add capacity for a Ford Dealership expansion, medical clinic, new municipal building for the Town of Stonewall, community center, electric construction company, a strip mall, and new Chevrolet Dealership. These additions will create approximately 30 new jobs in the area as well as new sub-division residents. A total of 1,630 customers will benefit from this project.

## 4. Girod St. Infrastructure Improvements

**Awardee:** Downtown Development District

**Awardee Contact:** Kurt Weigle

**County:** Orleans, LA

**Federal ID#:** 72-0793672

**Telephone:** 504-561-8927

**Congressional District:** 2nd

### Funding:

DRA		\$ 40,000	4.76%
State		\$ 300,000	35.71%
Applicant		\$ 500,000	59.52%
Total		\$ 840,000	100.00%

**Description:** This project will allow the Downtown Development District to provide necessary public infrastructure improvements to facilitate the development of a new mixed-use retail and residential development project.

**Benefits/Outcomes:** The Girod Street Project is critical for the development of the South Market. The implementation of this project supports the envisioned retail and residential development, which will fill a void in downtown New Orleans. Furthermore,



# Fiscal Year 2012 Louisiana Project Summaries

the South Market Development will generate jobs along the Loyola streetcar line that will directly connect to the low-income neighborhoods within the city, particularly the Iberville Choice Neighborhood Development. This redevelopment is expected to create 293 permanent jobs and 500 additional housing units.

## 5. SAPA Drive

**Awardee:** Richmond Parish Police Jury

**Awardee Contact:** Althan Smith

**County:** Richland, LA

**Federal ID#:** 72-6001157

**Telephone:** 318-728-2061

**Congressional District:** 5th

### Funding:

DRA	\$ 250,000	35.71%
Local	\$ 250,000	35.71%
CDBG	\$ 200,000	28.57%
Total	\$ 700,000	100.00%

**Description:** This project will enhance a road that serves an aluminum extrusion plant in Richland Parish. The renovation of this road will ensure the employment of an additional 20 jobs and the retention of 290 jobs presently working at the plant.

**Benefits:** The result of this project will be restoration and enhancement of a road that will ensure the continued operation of an aluminum excursion plant in Richland Parish, Louisiana. The renovated road will allow an increased number and load capacity of the trucks which serve the plant. The continued operation of the plant will accomplish the employment of 20 additional employees and the retention of 290 jobs.

## 6. Grant Parish-Business and Resource Development Center

**Awardee:** Grant Parish Police Jury

**Awardee Contact:** Kurt Weigle

**County:** Grant, LA

**Federal ID#:** 72-0793672

**Telephone:** 504-561-8927

**Congressional District:** 5th

### Funding:

DRA	\$ 100,000	30.77%
State	\$ 225,000	69.23%
Total	\$ 325,000	100.00%

# Fiscal Year 2012 Louisiana Project Summaries

**Description:** Renovate building for use as a business development and training center in support of entrepreneurs, workers, and job seekers.

**Benefits/Outcomes:** The center will provide all citizens and agencies an opportunity to come together to support growth oriented entrepreneurship and other endeavors to enhance economic growth. The center will provide a hub location for conducting seminars and workshops for training providers, a central facility for partners to utilize labor market, the fostering of local leadership and improvement of the awareness for all citizens of the value of, and access to technology in their economic future.

## 7. Caldwell Parish 911 Communications District

**Awardee:** Caldwell Parish 911

**Awardee Contact:** Linda Lowery

**County:** Caldwell, LA

**Federal ID#:** 72-60000242

**Telephone:** 318-649-6446

**Congressional District:** 5th

### Funding:

DRA		\$ 40,000		100.00%
Total		\$ 40,000		100.00%

**Description:** Currently, Caldwell Parish E911 cannot locate callers who call from a cell phone during an emergency. Many local citizens do not use landline services. In case of an emergency cellphone users are at risk if they can't verbally communicate their location. Caldwell Parish is one of the few remaining parishes without resources to convert calls.

**Benefits:** This project, Enhanced 911 Phase II, will give emergency call takers the ability to know where an emergency caller is and allow them to accurately direct all emergency response vehicles in a timely manner, thus improving response times and saving lives.

## 8. Bolstering Biotechnology Entrepreneurship

**Awardee:** New Orleans Bio-Innovation

**Awardee Contact:** Aaron Miscenich

**County:** Orleans, LA

**Federal ID#:** 20-0078125

**Telephone:** 504-680-2977

**Congressional District:** 2nd

### Funding:

DRA		\$ 70,000		79.91%
State		\$ 17,600		20.09%
Total		\$ 87,600		100.00%



# Fiscal Year 2012 Louisiana Project Summaries

**Description:** The New Orleans Bio-Innovation Center (NOBIC), a wetlab incubator, will expand its technical assistance targeted at commercializing technology to biotech start-ups.

**Benefits/Outcomes:** The hiring and training of new fellows and interns and indirect job creation through expansion of the robust platform of commercialization services already provided by NOBIC. The expansion of NOBIC's technical assistance program fulfills two NBIA principles of effective business incubation, as it demonstrates that the NOBIC business model is fluid and sustainable, expanding into other geographical areas based on core competencies. Furthermore, development of biotech startups in Greater New Orleans and other Parishes will strengthen the emergence of a sustainable biotech industry in Louisiana that produces competitive, varying skill-level jobs and businesses for the regional and state economy.

## 9. Repairs to Landfill Access Road

**Awardee:** West Carroll Parish Police Jury

**Awardee Contact:** Jack Madde

**County:** Caldwell, LA

**Federal ID#:** 72-6001484

**Telephone:** 318-428-3390

**Congressional District:** 5th

### Funding:

DRA	\$ 125,000	71.43%
Local	\$ 50,000	28.57%
Total	\$ 175,000	100.00%

**Description:** DRA funds will be used to reconstruct Parish Road #315. Approximately 3,696 linear feet, 18 feet wide with 12" lime treated base and 8 ½" soil cement stabilized base and 2" thick asphalt concrete surface.

**Benefits:** This road is vital to the continued operation of the Parish Landfill, Sanitation Department, and Recycling Department and two farming operations. This road serves the landfill which is a vital environmental asset for the parish.

## 10. Cameron Local Enterprise Assistance and Recruiting (CLEAR) Center

**Awardee:** Winrock International

**Awardee Contact:** Belinda Adaire

**County:** Cameron, LA

**Federal ID#:** 71-0603560

**Telephone:** 501-280-3057

**Congressional District:** 3rd

### Funding:

DRA	\$ 375,000	88.24%
Other	\$ 50,000	11.76%
Total	\$ 425,000	100.00%

# Fiscal Year 2012 Louisiana Project Summaries

**Description:** Winrock International, through funding from the DRA and in collaboration with community and parish leaders and Cheniere Energy partners will convene, recruit, and mentor entrepreneurs in Cameron Parish, Louisiana, to prepare for the significant job and workforce influx that will support Cheniere's facility expansion during 2012-2018.

**Benefits/Outcomes:** A total of 30 entrepreneurs will be recruited, receive comprehensive, in-depth business development training and technical assistance, and access to capital and other resources. Winrock expects 22 new business starts, 50 new jobs created, and 30 percent of the start-ups will be profitable by the end of their third year. Winrock has identified a strategy which identifies multiple approaches to attract, retain, and grow entrepreneurs in Cameron Parish.

## 11. Tensas Parish Police Jury

**Awardee:** Tensas Parish Police Jury

**Awardee Contact:** Tim Williamson

**County:** Tensas, LA

**Federal ID#:** 45-0470675

**Telephone:** 504-304-3284

**Congressional District:** 5th

### Funding:

DRA	\$ 75,000	8.12%
USDA	\$ 250,000	27.06%
Applicant	\$ 599,000	64.83%
Total	\$ 924,000	100.00%

**Description:** Renovate a 40,000 square foot (sf) building for Tensas Parish Port Commission operations.

**Benefits:** The results and accomplishments to be derived from the Tensas Parish Port Commission Operations Building project are as follows: Implementation of scheduled land acquisitions as determined through the Tensas Parish Port Master Plan and the retention and creation of jobs for Tensas Parish, which is severely distressed and improve income levels for a poverty stricken area of Louisiana.

## 12. Port of West St. Mary Industrial Park

**Awardee:** Port of St. Mary

**Awardee Contact:** David Allain

**County:** St. Mary, LA

**Federal ID#:** 72-0801823

**Telephone:** 337-828-3410

**Congressional District:** 3rd

### Funding:

DRA	\$ 150,000	1.94%
Local	\$ 7,585,235	98.06%
Total	\$ 7,735,235	100.00%



# Fiscal Year 2012 Louisiana Project Summaries

**Description:** The Port of West St. Mary plans to install water, sewer, gas tap/main, roadways, and sheet piles and dredge a slip on its Industrial Park site to accommodate interests of new business.

**Benefits/Outcomes:** The project being undertaken by the Port of West St Mary will result in the location of a manufacturing plant. The addition of this company to St Mary Parish will aid in the accomplishment of the Parish's economic development goals by providing over 150 new jobs in the first year and thereafter 350 up to potentially 1,200 additional jobs created. This benefit will lure other manufacturing firms into the region and diversify the local economy. The completion of the Industrial Park will be inviting for other new businesses such as Zeta Corporation, this creating more jobs for residents of St Mary and neighboring parishes.

## 13. Video Game Incubator

**Awardee:** Research Park Corporation

**Awardee Contact:** Genevieve Silverman

**County:** East Baton Rouge, LA

**Federal ID#:** 30-0462723

**Telephone:** 318-807-4024

**Congressional District:** 2nd and 6th

### Funding:

DRA	\$ 75,000	90.00%
Applicant	\$ 11,396	10.00%
Total	\$ 86,396	100.00%

**Description:** The Louisiana Technology Park will create a video game incubator which will result in the direct creation of jobs in Louisiana through business development and attraction/creation of new companies specializing in video game and mobile app production.

**Benefits:** The incentives provided by the State for digital interactive media and software development will not be useful unless there is an ecosystem in which a company from outside the state can insert itself, or a company within the state can develop into. The video game incubator program will allow the state to have an outlet for utilizing its incentive package by providing the tools needed for local college graduates and software developers from within and outside of the state to create their own game companies.

# Fiscal Year 2012 Louisiana Project Summaries

## 14. NOVA Workforce Development Region 8

**Awardee:** NOVA Institute

**Awardee Contact:** Paul West

**County:** Ouachita, LA

**Federal ID#:** 30-0462723

**Telephone:** 337-828-3410

**Congressional District:** 5th

### Funding:

DRA	\$ 40,000	15.54%
Local	\$ 217,400	84.46%
Total	\$ 257,400	100.00%

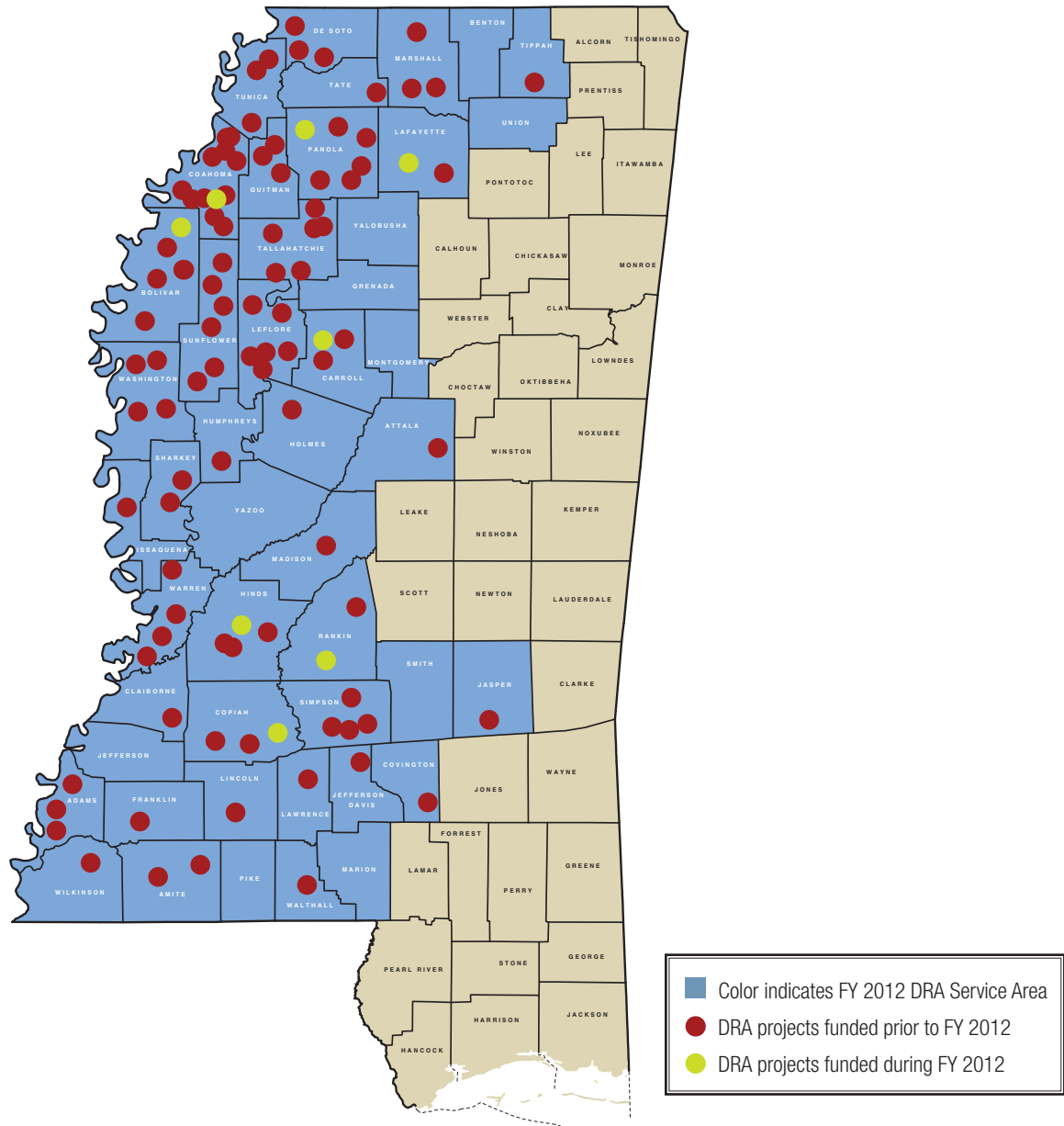
**Description:** NOVA is a long-term, employer-driven initiative to help participants find living-wage jobs with benefits and a career path. Any person 18 or older, who resides in the Delta region, is living at least 200% below the federal poverty guidelines and is unemployed or underemployed can apply to participate. NOVA impacts low-income individuals who need training, and employers seeking dependable, skilled workers. Participants obtain career training in high-demand occupations, learn soft skills such as interviewing and time management and receive supportive services such as child care, tuition/fee payments, books, case management, career counseling and transportation. NOVA is based in Ouachita Parish and has outreach in East Carroll, Madison, Morehouse, Richland, and Tensas Parishes, but NOVA's services are open to anyone located in Region 8 of northeast Louisiana, regardless of whether they reside in one of these parishes.

**Benefits/Outcomes:** By providing opportunities for professional and life skills training, NOVA will impact individuals and their families in ways that extend beyond measurement. Finding living-wage jobs with benefits and placing workers on a career path will help elevate graduates to a middle class earning level which many previously thought unattainable. Expected results and accomplishments are defined as: 1) Providing the necessary skills and education to a currently low-skill workforce 2) Placing graduates in living-wage jobs with benefits in the Delta Region, 3) Increase intellectual capital available to Delta Region employers and 4) Provide a region where potential employers who seek a skilled workforce can feel good about locating their business.





# DRA Projects in Mississippi



## Mississippi Counties Served by DRA

Adams	Coahoma	Holmes	Lafayette	Montgomery	Simpson	Union
Amite	Copiah	Humphreys	Lawrence	Panola	Smith	Walthall
Attala	Covington	Issaquena	Leflore	Pearl River	Sunflower	Warren
Benton	DeSoto	Jasper	Lincoln	Pike	Tallahatchie	Washington
Bolivar	Franklin	Jefferson	Madison	Quitman	Tate	Wilkinson
Carroll	Grenada	Jefferson Davis	Marion	Rankin	Tippah	Yalobusha
Claiborne	Hinds	Jones	Marshall	Sharkey	Tunica	Yazoo

# Cumulative Mississippi benefits from DRA

*The numbers below are for FY 2002 through 2012.*

Total DRA projects	98
DRA Investment	\$ 15,055,343
Other Public Investment	\$ 75,692,366
Other Private Investment	\$ 168,691,822
Overall Total Investment	\$ 259,439,531
Leverage Ratio	16.2
Jobs Created	569
Jobs Retained	262
Individuals Trained for Jobs	105
Families Affected	2,471
Projected Jobs Created	1,213
Projected Jobs Retained	1,050
Projected Individuals Trained for Jobs	727
Projected Families Affected	5,725
Digital Literacy	13,000

**“As Mississippi continues to grow its economy and enhance quality of life for its residents, we are appreciative of the hard work of the Delta Regional Authority and their dedication to improving the unique, vital Delta area, both in Mississippi and throughout the region.”**

– Governor Phil Bryant, *Mississippi*



# Mississippi benefits from DRA

The numbers below are for FY 2012.

Total DRA projects	8
DRA Investment	\$ 1,467,055
Other Public Investment	\$ 3,105,516
Other Private Investment	\$ 1,641,000
Overall Total Investment	\$ 6,213,571
Leverage Ratio	3.2
Projected Jobs Created	221
Projected Jobs Retained	216
Projected Individuals Trained for Jobs	511
Projected Families Affected	300

“The [DRA’s]...support is critical to Digital Opportunity Trust USA’s ability to help economically distressed Delta counties improve public education, digital literacy and 21st century workforce skills through the TeachUp! Program. Our DRA grant has allowed us to leverage other federal, state, and private dollars and to employ 140 technology integration TeachUp! Interns in Delta communities...”

– Nuria Arias, Executive Director, Digital Opportunity Trust USA





# **Mississippi FY 2012 SEDAP Project Summaries**

# Fiscal Year 2012 Mississippi Project Summaries

## 1. City of Crystal Springs Utility Improvements

**Awardee:** City of Crystal Springs

**Awardee Contact:** Sally Garland

**County:** Copiah, MS

**Federal ID#:** 64-60000304

**Telephone:** 601-892-1212

**Congressional District:** 2nd

### Funding:

DRA	\$ 307,000	100.00%
Total	\$ 307,000	100.00%

**Description:** Water and sewer extensions and improvements to support and retain local businesses and jobs in Crystal Springs, Mississippi.

**Benefits:** It is beneficial to the entire City of Crystal Springs and the surrounding areas to not suffer from lost jobs and businesses during tough economic times. Approximately 8,500 families will be affected by this project, which will retain 78 jobs and create 5 new ones.

## 2. The Town of Vaiden Sewer Improvements

**Awardee:** Town of Vaiden

**Awardee Contact:** Greg Curlin

**County:** Carroll, MS

**Federal ID#:** 61-0933529

**Telephone:** 270-236-2563

**Congressional District:** 2nd

### Funding:

DRA	\$ 61,079	90.00%
Local	\$ 6,786	10.00%
Total	\$ 67,865	100.00%

**Description:** DRA funds will be used to rehab the sewer system located within the Town of Vaiden, Carroll County, Mississippi. The sewer rehab will consist of replacing old sewer mains, manholes and reconnecting existing customers.

**Benefits/Outcomes:** Approximately 734 people and over 300 households will benefit from this project.

# Fiscal Year 2012 Mississippi Project Summaries

## 3. Teach-Up Technology Empowerment

**Awardee:** Digital Opportunity Trust-USA

**Awardee Contact:** Nuria Arias

**County:** Lafayette, MS

**Federal ID#:** 20-4993061

**Telephone:** 601-325-7478

**Congressional District:** 4th

### Funding:

DRA	\$ 305,738	12.44%
Applicant	\$ 625,200	25.45%
Grant	\$ 1,526,000	62.11%
Total	\$ 2,456,938	100.00%

**Description:** To recruit, hire, train and deploy 140 tech-savvy Delta natives as Teach-Up Technology interns in public schools and WIN Job Centers in 16 distressed counties.

**Benefits:** This project will increase the digital literacy and workforce readiness for higher-tech jobs across this distressed 18-county region by improving digital literacy and computer skills of 60,000 students and 4,000 teachers and help 15,000 clients of WIN centers.

## 4. Wireless Service

**Awardee:** Town of Puckett

**Awardee Contact:** Russell Espiritu

**County:** Rankin, MS

**Federal ID#:** 64-0500096

**Telephone:** 601-825-8074

**Congressional District:** 3rd

### Funding:

DRA	\$ 5,640	89.95%
Applicant	\$ 630	10.05%
Total	\$ 6,270	100.00%

**Description:** Installation of a wireless Internet system for residents, businesses, and visitors to the Town of Puckett to utilize at no charge.

**Benefits/Outcomes:** The proposed project will serve approximately 36 businesses within the Town of Puckett and hundreds of visitors each day. The community becomes more business friendly and provides high-speed Wi-Fi access to travelers passing through that may require internet access temporarily. Visitors to the town's park will also have access to Wi-Fi.



# Fiscal Year 2012 Mississippi Project Summaries

## 5. Rosedale-Rice Capital, Inc. Project

**Awardee:** Town of Rosedale

**Awardee Contact:** Carey Estes

**County:** Bolivar, MS

**Federal ID#:** 64-6001038

**Telephone:** 662-759-6813

**Congressional District:** 2nd

### Funding:

DRA	\$ 250,000	50.00%
USDA	\$ 250,000	50.00%
Total	\$ 500,000	100.00%

**Description:** The City of Rosedale proposes to assist the expansion of Rice Capital by utilizing DRA funds to install a loader/unloader at the Port of Rosedale.

**Benefits:** The benefits derived from the proposed installation of a loader/unloader at the port of Rosedale include, but are not limited to the following: Location of the expansion of Rice Capital, Inc., job creation for at least 15 individuals, and multi-modal transportation with the possibility of adding rail service. In addition, transportation cost reductions for grain growers, easy sale access for grain growers and a new corporate citizen.

## 6. Jonestown Streets and Drainage

**Awardee:** Town of Jonestown

**Awardee Contact:** Joe Phillips

**County:** Coahoma, MS

**Federal ID#:** 64-0575364

**Telephone:** 662-358-4328

**Congressional District:** 2nd

### Funding:

DRA	\$ 67,197	21.18%
Applicant	\$ 250,000	78.82%
Total	\$ 397,197	100.00%

**Description:** Raise a portion of Main Street to prevent flooding during heavy rains.

**Benefits/Outcomes:** The project will benefit the citizens of Jonestown. Currently, the 1,701 people that live in Jonestown are not able to travel a portion of Main Street when the area is flooded. The street will be raised to a higher level; therefore, the street can remain open during times of rain so that visitors and residents can travel through this area.

# Fiscal Year 2012 Mississippi Project Summaries

## 7. Panola County Sardis Industrial Park

**Awardee:** Panola County

**Awardee Contact:** Kelly Morris

**County:** Panola, MS

**Federal ID#:** 64-6000940

**Telephone:** 662-563-6200

**Congressional District:** 2nd

### Funding:

DRA		\$ 245,000		65.04%
USDA		\$ 131,900		34.95%
Total		\$ 377,300		100.00%

**Description:** Road improvements for the Industrial Park Road and South Frontage Road of the Industrial Park.

**Benefits:** The road will be upgraded and safer for travel. The current business will have safer and better road conditions for their products and employees to travel to and from the plant. New businesses that tour the area will feel comfortable with the road conditions and will consider locating to the site. A total of 153 jobs will be retained in the Sardis Industrial Park along the jobs that will locate in the Industrial Park after the road is upgraded.

## 8. Mississippi Delta HealthCare, Workforce & Telehealth Project

**Awardee:** University of Mississippi Medical Center

**Awardee Contact:** Kristie Henderson

**County:** Hinds, MS

**Federal ID#:** 64-6008520

**Telephone:** 601-984-4100

**Congressional District:** 2nd

### Funding:

DRA		\$ 450,000		100.00%
Total		\$ 450,000		100.00%

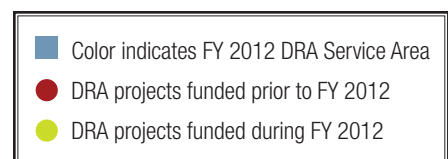
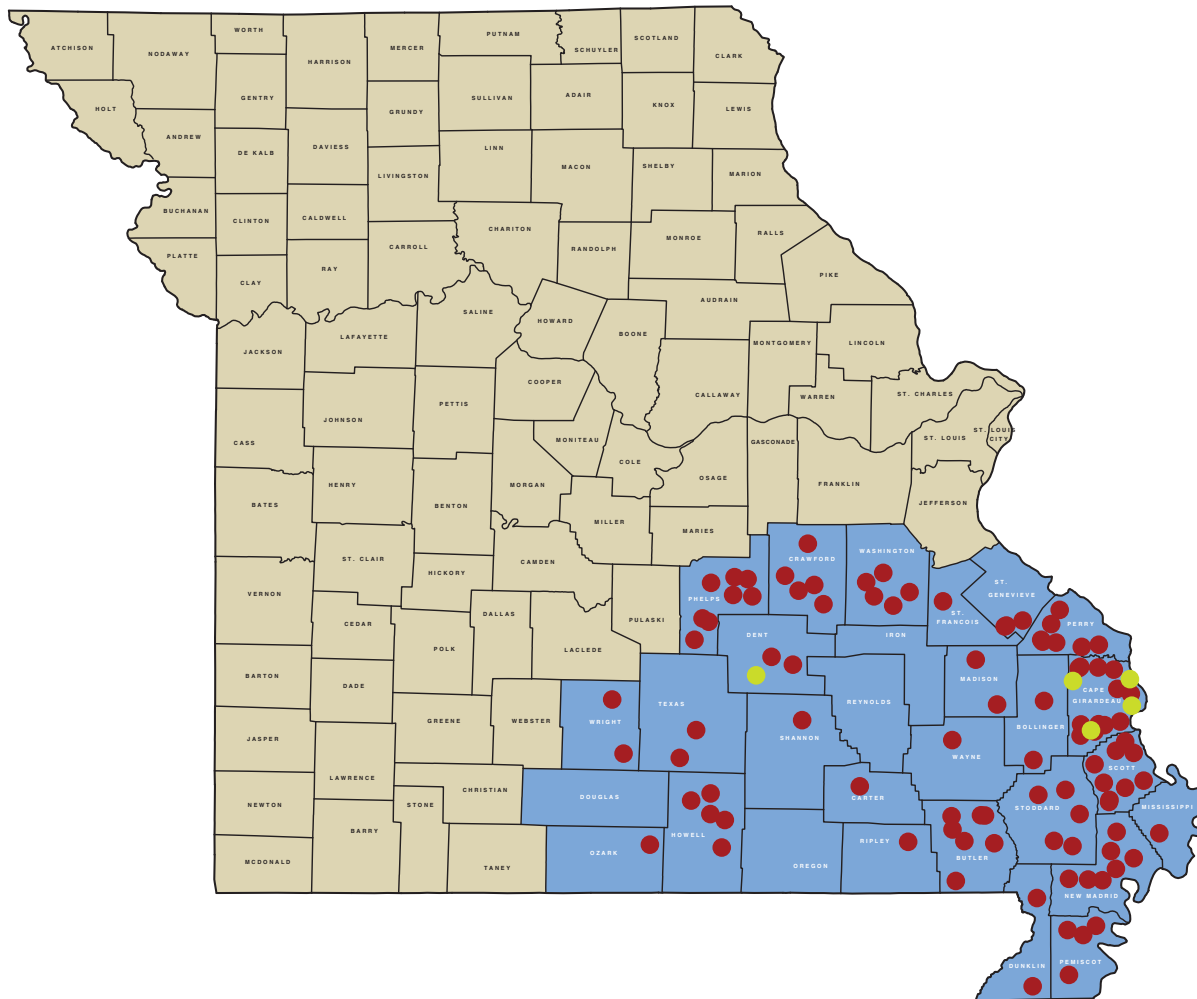
**Description:** The purpose of this project is to implement enhanced training programs for community health advocates, community health workers, expand nurse practitioner training programs utilizing technology. Also support existing Healthy Linkages Program throughout the Delta with tele-health services focused on education, Workforce Development, and telemedicine.

**Benefits/Outcomes:** This project will create six full-time positions, and as the project progresses, a total of 201 employees will be needed throughout the Mississippi Delta region. The Mississippi Delta Healthcare Workforce and Technology project will enable regional educators and health care providers to work in a coordinated manner to ensure that Community Health Advocate and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner training programs address critical skills required for healthcare professionals and ultimately lead to healthcare industry related certifications or career pathways resulting in paid work.





# DRA Projects in Missouri



## Missouri Counties Served by DRA

Bollinger	Dent	Madison	Pemiscot	Scott	Texas
Butler	Douglas	Mississippi	Perry	Shannon	Washington
Cape Girardeau	Dunklin	New Madrid	Phelps	St. Francois	Wayne
Carter	Howell	Oregon	Reynolds	St. Genevieve	Wright
Crawford	Iron	Ozark	Ripley	Stoddard	

# Cumulative Missouri benefits from DRA

*The numbers below are for FY 2002 through 2012.*

Total DRA projects	96
DRA Investment	\$ 12,622,283
Other Public Investment	\$ 49,744,922
Other Private Investment	\$ 213,511,030
Overall Total Investment	\$ 275,878,235
Leverage Ratio	20.9
Jobs Created	1,158
Jobs Retained	1,443
Individuals Trained for Jobs	386
Families Affected	1,084
Projected Jobs Created	326
Projected Jobs Retained	3,672
Projected Individuals Trained for Jobs	432
Projected Families Affected	912

“The Delta Regional Authority is a great example of what’s possible when federal, state and local governments work together to help businesses and communities succeed. DRA has helped us to rebuild infrastructure in communities impacted by flooding, invest in workforce training programs at our colleges and universities, and create jobs and opportunities through local small business incubators. As Missouri continues to move forward, the Delta Regional Authority will play an important role in continuing our economic growth.”

– Governor Jay Nixon, *Missouri*



# Missouri benefits from DRA

The numbers below are for FY 2012.

Total DRA projects	5
DRA Investment	\$ 1,093,874
Other Public Investment	\$ 2,668,475
Overall Total Investment	\$ 3,762,349
Leverage Ratio	2.4
Projected Jobs Created	16
Projected Jobs Retained	82



“The Delta Regional Authority over the years has not only provided much needed funding for a variety of meaningful community, regional, and multi-state projects, but they have brought together through trainings, seminars, annual meetings, and the Delta Leadership Institute a diverse group of individuals who have the same goal... ‘to improve the quality of life and place in the Mississippi Delta Region.’”

— Missy Marshall, Director, Three Rivers College, Center at Sikeston



# **Missouri FY 2012 SEDAP Project Summaries**

# Fiscal Year 2012 Missouri Project Summaries

## 1. Southeast Missouri Food Bank

**Awardee:** Southeast Missouri Food Bank

**Awardee Contact:** Karen Green

**County:** Cape Girardeau, MO

**Federal ID#:** 64-60000304

**Telephone:** 573-651-0400

**Congressional District:** 8th

### Funding:

DRA	\$ 100,000	6.67%
State	\$ 500,000	33.33%
USDA	\$ 900,000	60.00%
Total	\$ 1,500,000	100.00%

**Description:** Renovate and existing warehouse for suitable use as a distribution center.

**Benefits:** Increased capacity to serve the food insecure. The food bank currently participates in Experience Works, MERS Good-will, and other job training programs and with a facility expansion would be better able to support these initiatives.

## 2. River Road Extension

**Awardee:** Southeast Missouri Regional Port Authority

**Awardee Contact:** Greg Curlin

**County:** Cape Girardeau, MO

**Federal ID#:** 43-1091410

**Telephone:** 573-264-4045

**Congressional District:** 8th

### Funding:

DRA	\$ 219,000	75.00%
Applicant	\$ 73,000	25.00%
Total	\$ 292,000	100.00%

**Description:** The extension of River Road over creek

**Benefits/Outcomes:** Semo Port will obtain substantial benefits from the extension of River Road. It provides a critical element by providing access to future development areas immediately west of the Port and its harbor. It is needed for construction of the Loop Tracks, Project and related development of freight terminals, distribution facilities, and industries. The River Road extension is important to continuing the Port's growth and the region's continued economic development.

# Fiscal Year 2012 Missouri Project Summaries

## 3. Salem Economic Development Infrastructure

**Awardee:** City of Salem

**Awardee Contact:** Gary Brown

**County:** Dent, MO

**Federal ID#:** 43-6003364

**Telephone:** 573-729-4811

**Congressional District:** 8th

### Funding:

DRA	\$ 200,000	19.92%
State	\$ 392,027	39.04%
Local	\$ 412,027	41.04%
Total	\$ 1,004,054	100.00%

**Description:** The City of Salem is proposing to make significant upgrades to public roads, water, and wastewater infrastructure in a key commercial area of town.

**Benefits:** A commercial street that is more attractive to businesses and their clients. Parking will be significantly improved allowing more customers to easily access goods and services in the area. Better quality public infrastructure serving existing customers and new businesses in the city of Salem along with better access to the commercial district by businesses and customers.

## 4. OSI Building Extension

**Awardee:** Southeast Missouri Regional Port Authority

**Awardee Contact:** Greg Curlin

**County:** Cape Girardeau, MO

**Federal ID#:** 43-1091410

**Telephone:** 573-264-4045

**Congressional District:** 8th

### Funding:

DRA	\$ 274,874	49.99%
Applicant	\$ 275,000	50.01%
Total	\$ 549,873	100.00%

**Description:** Construct a 3,240 square foot addition to an existing facility, including two loading dock areas.

**Benefits/Outcomes:** Increased space, which will result in OSI being able to retain employees, as well as the benefit of having a loading dock area, will make it more likely to procure new contracts and thereby generating revenues to possibly increase employment levels. There is also safety, expansion of services to regional manufacturing thereby enhancing regional job opportunities and serving a segment of the population with employment options that are far more cost effective than other 100% funded options such as day habilitation.



# Fiscal Year 2012 Missouri Project Summaries

## 5. 10th Street Extension

**Awardee:** Southeast Missouri Regional Port Authority

**Awardee Contact:** Greg Curlin

**County:** Cape Girardeau, MO

**Federal ID#:** 43-1091410

**Telephone:** 573-264-4045

**Congressional District:** 8th

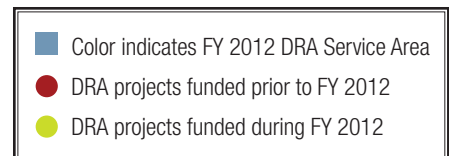
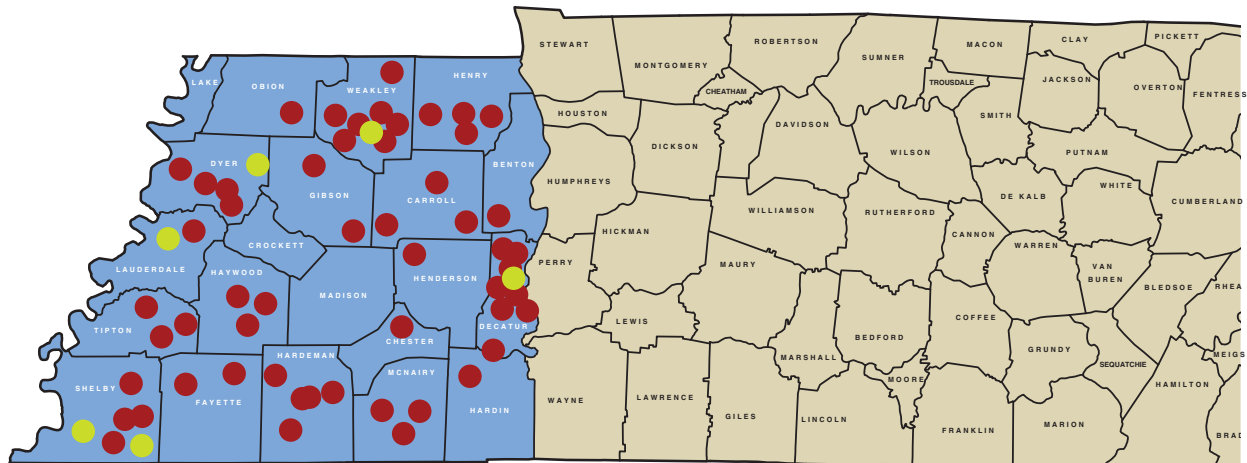
### Funding:

DRA	\$ 116,421	29.76%
Applicant	\$ 275,000	70.24%
Total	\$ 391,295	100.00%

**Description:** Removing a natural hazard. Provide safe and easy access to the newly organized Regional Educational and Business Enhancement facility.

**Benefits/Outcomes:** The community will, after decades, eliminate a safety issue with two low water crossings eliminated. Also, there is a huge benefit to the area with the opening of the Regional Educational and Business Park. With little economic development having been secured in the region for a long period of time, the ability of the area to provide a trained workforce is critical.

# DRA Projects in Tennessee



## Tennessee Counties Served by DRA

Benton	Crockett	Fayette	Hardin	Henry	Madison	Shelby
Carroll	Decatur	Gibson	Haywood	Lake	McNairy	Tipton
Chester	Dyer	Hardeman	Henderson	Lauderdale	Obion	Weakley





## Cumulative Tennessee benefits from DRA

*The numbers below are for FY 2002 through 2012.*

Total DRA projects	62
DRA Investment	\$ 14,350,119
Other Public Investment	\$ 157,870,005
Other Private Investment	\$ 287,295,000
Overall Total Investment	\$ 459,515,124
Leverage Ratio	31.0
Jobs Created	1,764
Jobs Retained	11
Individuals Trained for Jobs	53
Families Affected	4,252
Projected Jobs Created	3,309
Projected Jobs Retained	1,230
Projected Individuals Trained for Jobs	2,580
Projected Families Affected	7,998

**“The Delta Regional Authority is instrumental in helping our community and region grow economically. Through strategic investments, Memphis and Shelby County have reaped numerous benefits in economic growth, transportation and infrastructure development, education and clean technology. The Delta Regional Authority is a vital part of improving the quality of life for our families in the Delta.”**

– Congressman Steve Cohen

# Tennessee benefits from DRA

The numbers below are for FY 2012.

Total DRA projects	6
DRA Investment	\$ 1,030,200
Other Public Investment	\$ 483,818
Other Private Investment	\$ 905,000
Overall Total Investment	\$ 2,419,018
Leverage Ratio	1.3
Projected Jobs Created	454
Projected Jobs Retained	10
Projected Individuals Trained for Jobs	2,550
Projected Families Affected	18

“DRA is an agency that truly listens to the needs and priorities of local communities. In fiscal year 2011-2012, SWTDD received funding from DRA to establish our second Digital Factory which creates online job opportunities in rural communities. It is evident that the DRA recognizes new and innovative approaches to job creation and supports the efforts of local elected officials.”

— Joe W. Barker, Executive Director, Southwest Tennessee Development District





# **Tennessee FY 2012 SEDAP Project Summaries**

# Fiscal Year 2012 Tennessee Project Summaries

## 1. Halls Water Line Upgrade

**Awardee:** Town of Halls

**Awardee Contact:** Eugene Pugh

**County:** Lauderdale, TN

**Federal ID#:** 62-6003000

**Telephone:** 731-836-9653

**Congressional District:** 8th

### Funding:

DRA	\$ 105,300	90.00%
Local	\$ 11,700	10.00%
Total	\$ 117,000	100.00%

**Description:** Construct an 8 inch water line to support the creation and retention of 24 jobs.

**Benefits:** The proposed project will improve the water service provided by the Town of Halls by rectifying low water pressure and boosting the water pressure flow to an expanding business. This will provide for the immediate creation of 14 new jobs and infuse at least \$905,000 private investment in a highly distressed area.

## 2. City of Decaturville

**Awardee:** City of Decaturville

**Awardee Contact:** Gerald Buchanan

**County:** Decatur, TN

**Federal ID#:** 62-0804531

**Telephone:** 731-852-2034

**Congressional District:** 7th

### Funding:

DRA	\$ 200,000	86.02%
Applicant	\$ 32,500	13.98%
Total	\$ 232,500	100.00%

**Description:** Extension of a waterline from the Decaturville water system to serve 12 households in rural Henderson County that does not have access to a reliable water supply.

**Benefits/Outcomes:** Provision of a continued supply of water to those who do not currently have it. Compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act and having access to a dependable water system will benefit residents with limited and restricted incomes who can't afford to improve existing wells.



# Fiscal Year 2012 Tennessee Project Summaries

## 3. Greenfield Sanitary Sewer Extension

**Awardee:** City of Greenfield

**Awardee Contact:** Eddie McKelvey

**County:** Weakly, TN

**Federal ID#:** 62-6000296

**Telephone:** 731-235-2330

**Congressional District:** 8th

### Funding:

DRA		\$ 200,000		69.49%
Local		\$ 87,780		30.50%
Total		\$ 287,000		100.00%

**Description:** Extension of public sewer to an un-served residential area (6 households) that has failing septic tanks, including the construction of a wastewater pumping station.

**Benefits:** This project will provide access for these households to a sanitary sewer service. Likewise, the completion of the project will address compliance with the TDEC standards.

## 4. Ignite Center for Women Entrepreneurs

**Awardee:** Bartlett Area Chamber of Commerce

**Awardee Contact:** Natasha Donnerson

**County:** Shelby, TN

**Federal ID#:** 58-1375064

**Telephone:** 901-647-3922

**Congressional District:** 7th

### Funding:

DRA		\$ 75,000		58.05%
Other		\$ 54,200		41.95%
Total		\$ 129,200		100.00%

**Description:** The creation of an incubator for women entrepreneurs. Ignite Center for Women Entrepreneurs will be a “mixed-use” incubator for emerging women owned business encompassing technology and non-technology industries.

**Benefits/Outcomes:** The result of the Ignite Center for Women Entrepreneurs will be groomed sustainable and scalable companies that will provide jobs for our surrounding communities.

# Fiscal Year 2012 Tennessee Project Summaries

## 5. Dyersburg State Community College

**Awardee:** Northwest Tennessee Workforce Development

**Awardee Contact:** Margaret Prater

**County:** Dyer, TN

**Federal ID#:** 62-0800930

**Telephone:** 731-286-3585

**Congressional District:** 8th

### Funding:

DRA	\$ 199,900	100.00%
Total	\$ 199,900	100.00%

**Description:** This project is a 2-year expansion of Workforce Development training provided by NWTN Workforce Development through Dyersburg State Community College. The proposed expansion includes the training and certification (National Career Readiness Certificate) of 2,400 unemployed and underemployed northwest Tennessee residents.

**Benefits:** The award of and subsequent completion of this project will provide NCRC job skills training to over 2,400 unemployed persons that suffers from lack of educational attainment and employment opportunity. Area employers will be able to approach Workforce Development centers for employees that have met the NCRC criteria.

## 6. Community Digital Advantage Program

**Awardee:** Community L.I.F.T., Corp

**Awardee Contact:** Eric Robertson

**County:** Shelby, Tennessee

**Federal ID#:** 27-3941355

**Telephone:** 901-521-4232

**Congressional District:** 9th

### Funding:

DRA	\$ 250,000	46.00%
Applicant	\$ 297,630	54.00%
Total	\$ 547,630	100.00%

**Description:** Community LIFT seeks to establish a broadband delivery technological infrastructure in the Soulsville community of Memphis, Tennessee. Community LIFT's mission is to revitalize neighborhoods through strategic investments in the areas of human capacity-building and economic and community development that results in sustainable thriving communities.

**Benefits/Outcomes:** The Soulsville neighborhood will have comprehensive Broadband availability throughout the community. Local businesses will be more competitive and more f businesses will be motivated to either stay or relocate to the Soulsville community. Students will also be able to take advantage of the same Internet resources as in more affluent neighborhoods.



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## **DRA Programs and Initiatives**



# **Access the Delta: Enhancing Small Business and Entrepreneurship 2012**

## FY 2012 Update

Without proper knowledge, some entrepreneurs fall victim to “predatory lenders” when attempting to secure debt financing. Appropriately, the Delta Regional Authority’s Access the Delta program was designed to increase an entrepreneur’s access to affordable capital. Access the Delta sessions (held in seven DRA states) brought together a total of 276 participants. Each session began with a roundtable discussion of “Opportunities and Challenges in Federal and Private Capital Programs,” featuring DRA Alternate Federal Co-Chairman Mike Marshall, state and regional directors of SBA and USDA Rural Development, and representatives of local, alternative lending institutions.

Access the Delta operates directly in sync with the White House Rural Council’s objective to create opportunity by increasing the flow of capital in rural areas and workforce development. With this focus, the sessions connected small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs in rural areas with information and training on federal assistance for small businesses, financial preparedness, and credit building.

The local SBDCs provided technical assistance training in financial preparedness, necessary steps for creating comprehensive business plans, and how to identify and analyze the needs of a business’s community. The financial preparedness discussion was supplemented by an introduction to micro-lending facilitated by local affordable lending organizations, led by non-profit lender, ACCION.

# Connect2Compete

Broadband has largely become a necessary utility for businesses and individuals to be successful. However, more than \$14.5 million people in Rural America do not have access to broadband connections, virtually disconnecting them from a 21st century economy. To combat this lack of accessibility the Delta Regional Authority has partnered with Connect2Compete (C2C) and CEO Zach Leverenz to provide 45 schools in three Delta region states with reduced-cost Internet service, affordable computers, and free digital literacy training through a pilot program beginning in Fall 2012.

C2C is a national nonprofit organization designed to help narrow the digital divide by making high-speed Internet access, computers, education and jobs content, and digital literacy training more accessible for Americans without home connectivity. Founded less than a year ago, C2C works with more than 40 non-profit and private sector partners, including the nation's largest cable Internet companies. This program is part of a larger public-private initiative championed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to narrow the digital divide. "Once considered a luxury, owning a computer and an Internet connection have become absolutely essential to getting a job, succeeding in school, and participating in today's society," said C2C CEO Zach Leverenz. "Low-income and minority Americans - whether in urban or rural settings - disproportionately find themselves on the wrong side

**"More than 14.5 million people in Rural America do not have access to broadband connections, virtually disconnecting them from a 21st century economy."**

STATE	CITY	# OF SCHOOLS
Arkansas	Jonesboro	3
Louisiana	Abbeville	1
	Alexandria	7
	Baton Rouge	10
	Beaux Bridge	2
	Kenner	1
	Metairie	1
	New Orleans	4
	St. Martinville	2
	St. Rose	1
	Violet	1
	Waggaman	1
	Westwego	1
Mississippi	Greenville	5
	Greenwood	5

of the digital divide – excluded from the \$8 trillion digital economy and all of its benefits. C2C works to close that divide."

The percentage of Delta residents operating a website lags behind the national average, 54 percent compared to 62 percent. There is also a disparity between the pricing available to rural as compared to urban areas. C2C's program will begin the process of change by additionally offering affordable computers and Internet to eligible families in the 45 participating schools of the Delta region and other areas like it.

The partnership's program involves 45 schools in three states and twelve counties and parishes.



# Delta Doctors Program

## FY 2012 Update

The Delta Doctors program had one of its more successful years processing 34 J-1 Visa Waiver applications to the Department of State. Work was done to retool the way six-month surveys by the doctors and hospitals are submitted and collected so the DRA can collect important information on the doctors placed in the region and what they mean to its economy that impact study for 2012 is below.

## First Quarter FY 2013 Status

In the first half of FY 2013 the Delta Doctors Program stayed on track from the previous year and processed 33 applications. In the latter part of the year DRA began discussions with J-1 attorneys who frequently apply to place J-1 physicians in the Delta region on have some type of meeting. Currently the DRA and a small committee of J-1 attorneys, recruiters and hospital contractors who oversee the doctors for the three year period are working on the first ever Delta Doctors Conference to be hosted by the DRA in Memphis in early April. The Conference hopes to bring together J-1 state contacts, universities, colleges, J-1 attorneys, clinics, recruiters, and others to talk about immigration reform, overview of new J-1 guidelines from Department of State, and the DRA Delta Doctors Program guidelines, and to create a forum for new ideas and networking opportunities for our smaller rural hospitals and clinics.

<b>DELTA DOCTORS</b>		
<i>Physicians Placed by State</i>		
<b>STATE</b>	<b>FY 2012</b>	<b>FY 2003-2012</b>
Alabama	0	0
Arkansas	3	14
Illinois	4	32
Kentucky	2	8
Louisiana	2	9
Mississippi	16	58
Missouri	4	34
Tennessee	2	49
<b>Totals</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>204</b>

DRA collaborates and coordinates with health clinics, hospitals, immigration attorneys, State Conrad 30 coordinators and the State Department to ensure the program's integrity. To date, the Delta Doctors program has assisted with the placement of 204 physicians in the region, which has helped to better meet the health care needs of more Delta families. With one application currently pending, the total applications for 2012 stand at 33 submitted by the DRA to the State Department.

## Expectations and Projections for the remainder of FY 2013

The first Delta Doctors conference will take place April 8-9, 2013 in Memphis, TN. This conference will provide four sessions:

1. A back to the basics -step by step planning process for a J-1 Waiver
2. Rural Health – Solutions in recruiting
3. Immigration – Impact on the Region for 2013
4. The DRA Delta Doctors Policies and Procedures and State Conrad Policy and our differences

Through the conference, the DRA hopes to spread the word about our program and thus increase our numbers.

# Delta Doctors Program

**The Economic Impacts of the Delta Doctors Program: Results to Date**  
**Dennis P. Robinson, Ph.D. and Tina Tian, Institute for Economic Advancement**

**University of Arkansas at Little  
 Rock, January 11, 2013**

Table 1

NUMBER OF DELTA DOCTORS PLACED BY STATE IN 2012				
STATE	DOCTORS IN METRO COUNTIES		DOCTORS IN NON-METRO COUNTIES	TOTAL DOCTORS
Arkansas	1		6	7
Illinois	0		18	19
Kentucky	1		2	3
Louisiana	4		1	5
Mississippi	10		16	26
Missouri	0		15	15
Tennessee	17		3	20
<b>Totals</b>	<b>33</b>		<b>61</b>	<b>94</b>

## Delivering Delta Doctors

The Delta Regional Authority has implemented the Delta Doctors program to increase access to quality health care for the people living in the region. The program allows foreign physicians who have been trained in the U.S. to work in medically underserved areas for three years. Those in the Delta Doctors program do not take jobs away from U.S. physicians, since they provide crucial medical services in areas with a physician shortage. The program is not a residency program,

nor is the Delta Regional Authority able to assist in the placement of foreign medical students into residency programs.

The physicians placed by the Delta Doctors program to date (See Table 1) have completed at least three years of specialized training, learning how to deliver a range of acute, chronic, and preventive medical care services. In addition to diagnosing and treating illness, they also provide preventive care including routine check-ups, health risk assessments, immunization and screening tests, and personalized counseling on maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Delta Doctors physicians also manage chronic illnesses and coordinate care with other sub specialists; from heart disease, stroke, and hypertension, to diabetes, cancer, and asthma, family physicians provide primary care for the nation's most serious health problems.

A cost survey performed by the Medical Group Management Association on member Family Practice Single Specialty Groups that was based on the year 2003 data shows that a median value of 5 total employed staff positions (FTE) per physician are created through this program (? sentence not complete currently).

While physicians are primarily focused on providing care to their patients, they also play a vital role in the regional economies by creating jobs, purchasing goods and services, and supporting state and community public programs. This report estimates the economic impacts of the Delta Doctors Program physicians measured in terms of jobs, income, economic value created, and business sales.

For the year 2012, 94 doctors have been placed in the Delta region, including 61 doctors placed in the previous years and cur-



# Delta Doctors Program

rently in full practice, and another 33 doctors newly placed in December 2012. Even though the newly placed doctors may not have started services, their potentials to generate economic impacts are similar to those doctors in practice. Therefore, in this study, the newly placed doctors have been included to estimate their economic impacts to the region.

## Impact Estimation Methodology

The economic data from the 2007 IMPLAN database has been used to evaluate the annual economic impact of the physicians placed by the Delta Doctors program in each of the counties that the doctors are serving. Using MGMA data, we have estimated that one full-time physician creates an average of five full-time supporting staff positions.

The economic impacts of the program include direct, indirect, and induced components. The direct impacts are the value of jobs, income, valued added, and business sales that are produced from patient care activities provided in physician offices. The indirect impacts include the jobs, income, value added, and the business sales generated in the industries that are supported by physicians' offices.

The induced impacts are the additional economic effects resulting from incomes-induced interactions. Total effects are the sum of the direct, indirect, and induced effects.

## Economic Impact Results

Table 2 summarizes the average annual economic effects of the Delta Doctors program on a per-physician basis. The results are given for the entire Delta Doctors program and for physicians placed in metropolitan and non-metropolitan counties.

Table 2

PER PHYSICIAN	EMPLOYMENT				LABOR INCOME			
	Direct Effect	Indirect Effect	Induced Effect	Total Effect	Direct Effect	Indirect Effect	Induced Effect	Total Effect
All DRA Counties	6.0	1.0	2.3	9.4	\$ 509,615	\$ 58,704	\$ 101,417	\$ 63,255
Metro Counties	6.0	1.5	3.5	11.0	\$ 766,393	\$ 67,765	\$ 143,230	\$ 977,388
Non-Metro Counties	6.0	0.8	1.7	8.5	\$ 371,832	\$53,841	\$ 78,980	\$ 448,598
PER PHYSICIAN	VALUE ADDED				OUTPUT			
	Direct Effect	Indirect Effect	Induced Effect	Total Effect	Direct Effect	Indirect Effect	Induced Effect	Total Effect
All DRA Counties	\$ 571,588	\$ 86,569	\$ 172,863	\$ 790,062	\$ 879,592	\$ 151,460	\$ 291,484	\$ 1,258,180
Metro Counties	\$ 858,802	\$ 112,139	\$ 259,499	\$ 1,230,441	\$ 1,254,062	\$ 197,918	\$ 439,333	\$ 1,891,313
Non- Metro Counties	\$ 417,473	\$ 72,849	\$ 126,375	\$ 553,761	\$ 678,656	\$ 126,531	\$ 212,150	\$ 918,449

Notes: \*Total effect may not equal to the sum of the direct, indirect, and induced effects due to rounding. Monetary values are in 2012 dollars and employment effects are the average numbers of full-and part-time jobs. Impacts are computed using 2007 IMPLAN Econometric multipliers compiled using the "trade-flow" procedure for each county having doctors placed.

# Delta Doctors Program

On average, each Delta doctor is estimated to create 5 full-time jobs within their clinics and offices and an additional 3.4 full- and part-time jobs within the communities where they work. This means that one doctor has an effect on about 9.4 jobs in total (including the doctor) each year. Each new job is expected to earn approximately \$67,368 per year (\$633,255 in labor income divided by 9.4 jobs). Each Delta Doctors physician will create extra value to the community equal to \$790,000 each year in labor income, profits, dividends, and indirect business taxes. Additionally, each doctor will be responsible for nearly \$1.3 million in business sales each year. The economic impact results will vary depending on where the physicians are placed, as the economic effects are greater for physicians located in metropolitan areas than those in rural communities (a difference of nearly double the economic impact).

Table 3 provides the economic effects information by each state that the doctors placed. The state variations in the impact results are explained by the type of the communities that the doctors are working, including metro versus non-metro areas (See Table 1).

Table 3

STATE	EMPLOYMENT				LABOR INCOME			
	Direct Effect	Indirect Effect	Induced Effect	Total Effect	Direct Effect	Indirect Effect	Induced Effect	Total Effect
Arkansas	6.0	0.7	1.3	8.0	\$ 316,512	\$ 21,205	\$ 38,144	\$ 375,860
Illinois	6.0	0.8	1.8	8.6	\$ 418,845	\$ 122,885	\$ 146,176	\$ 496,383
Kentucky	6.0	0.7	1.7	8.4	\$ 454,891	\$ 27,891	\$ 52,662	\$ 535,444
Louisiana	6.0	1.0	1.9	8.8	\$ 396,905	\$ 41,952	\$ 66,297	\$ 505,154
Mississippi	6.0	1.0	2.7	9.6	\$ 753,786	\$ 36,633	\$ 88,402	\$ 878,822
Missouri	6.0	0.9	1.9	8.8	\$ 346,317	\$ 28,636	\$ 56,543	\$ 431,496
Tennessee	6.0	1.6	3.3	10.9	\$ 503,151	\$ 74,537	\$ 150,823	\$ 728,511

STATE	VALUE ADDED				OUTPUT			
	Direct Effect	Indirect Effect	Induced Effect	Total Effect	Direct Effect	Indirect Effect	Induced Effect	Total Effect
Arkansas	\$ 355,346	\$ 35,876	\$ 73,244	\$ 464,467	\$ 598,499	\$ 65,693	\$ 126,239	\$ 790,430
Illinois	\$ 470,298	\$ 152,981	\$ 202,222	\$ 610,470	\$ 759,635	\$ 252,306	\$ 331,915	\$ 1,005,989
Kentucky	\$ 511,271	\$ 44,243	\$ 102,057	\$ 657,571	\$ 795,985	\$ 80,794	\$ 175,350	\$ 1,052,128
Louisiana	\$ 445,843	\$ 68,503	\$ 120,235	\$ 634,580	\$ 710,216	\$ 125,119	\$ 211,590	\$ 1,046,925
Mississippi	\$ 843,898	\$ 61,405	\$ 171,832	\$ 1,077,135	\$ 1,236,640	\$ 110,012	\$ 282,108	\$ 1,628,760
Missouri	\$ 388,566	\$ 43,743	\$ 101,697	\$ 534,006	\$ 639,860	\$ 83,232	\$ 176,933	\$ 900,025
Tennessee	\$ 565,325	\$ 120,692	\$ 261,114	\$ 947,130	\$ 860,691	\$ 213,615	\$ 450,422	\$ 1,524,728

Notes: \*Total effect may not equal to the sum of the direct, indirect, and induced effects due to rounding. Monetary values are in 2012 dollars and employment effects are the average numbers of full- and part-time jobs. Impacts are computed using 2007 IMPLAN Econometric multipliers compiled using the "trade-flow" procedure for each county having doctors placed.



# Delta Leadership Institute

## FY 2012 Update

In June 2011, DRA made substantial changes to the Delta Leadership Institute (DLI) Executive Academy class of 2011-2012. Among such changes were the introduction and implementation of case studies in each session and the facilitation of DLI's first-ever Washington, DC, session allowing fellows to meet with federal agencies, congressional members, and White House officials. Additionally, fellows completed courses entitled Crucial Conversations and Influencer and developed fluency in DRA's major policy priorities in health, education, broadband, infrastructure, and small business and entrepreneurship.

For the Executive Academy class of 2012-2013, Academy Facilitators were added to each session. Facilitators are DLI alumni who regularly participate in the DLN and with the Delta Regional Authority. The Facilitators serve a very important role during the sessions as they help the fellows gain a better understanding of the bigger picture, to stay focused, and in addition, they report back to DRA and University of Alabama leadership - which assists DRA in the facilitation of DLI - on potential issues or concerns to be addressed within the program.

## First Quarter FY 2013 Status

In 2009, the Delta Leadership Network alumni organization was formed through a committee of DLI alumni. The DLN Annual Conference will take place in April 2013 in conjunction with the Executive Academy Session and will feature as keynote speaker John Barry, author of "Rising Tide." A bi-monthly newsletter is produced by DLN leadership to highlight regional events, relevant topics to the region, and DRA events. It is expected that many of the graduates of the Delta Leadership Institute will go back to their communities and help lead local leadership programs, actively increasing the number of people in the region who receive leadership training and utilize this training to transform their communities.

**"The most important ingredient of successful community growth is leadership."**

## Expectations and Projections for the remainder of FY 2013

Delta Leadership Institute will again submit a request for proposals (RFP) to universities and colleges in the DRA Service area. The DRA board will meet to select from the three most qualified candidates. Application to participate in DLI Executive Academy Class will open in July and the 2013-2014 Executive Academy will begin in late September to early October.

## Background

Delta communities often lack the civic infrastructure, organizations, and knowledge base necessary for sustained economic growth. Even those who are considered local leaders too often do not understand how good governance, quality infrastructure, adequate schools and quality health care services can work together to sustain growth. These areas often are marked by a lack of investment in leadership development and strategic planning. This results in a leadership void and a lack of direction. Communities never decide on their priorities. With no leadership, vision or plans for growth, these communities will continue to struggle.

DRA's Delta Leadership Institute (DLI) is designed to improve the decisions made by leaders across the region by broadening their understanding of regional issues, creating a corps of leaders with a regional and national perspective. The motivation for

# Delta Leadership Institute

the creation of this Executive Academy and Delta Leadership Network under the Delta Leadership umbrella was, in fact, to have an “army” of well-informed community leaders who understand not only their issues but the region’s issues. To that end, those leaders who have participated in and continue to participate in the Delta Leadership Network (DLN) become the voice of the Region and for the Authority. DLN is the body of alumni who have successfully completed the year-long DLI Executive Academy program and continue to communicate in order to foster and strengthen cross-cultural, inter-governmental bonds in the region.





# **DRA and the White House Council on Strong Cities, Strong Communities: A Collaborative Conversation about Philanthropy, Federal Funding, and Partnership in the Delta**

The Delta Regional Authority and the White House Council on Strong Cities, Strong Communities partnered to host a collaborative conversation about philanthropy, government, partnership, and sustainable development in the Delta region on March 17, 2013 in Memphis, TN. This collaborative conversation was held in partnership with the Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Sustainable Communities.

We were thrilled to be joined by the Honorable A.C. Wharton, Jr., Mayor of the City of Memphis; Bobby Goode, USDA Tennessee State Director; Sherece West, of the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation; William Buster, of the Kellogg Foundation; Bill Bynum, of the Hope Enterprise Corporation and Hope Credit Union (HOPE); Chad Bowman, of the City of Memphis, Melissa Rivers, of the East Arkansas Planning and Development District; Erich Caulfield, of SC2 New Orleans, and Sarah Sieloff, of SC2 Memphis.

We were also grateful for the participation of various stakeholders who served as group discussion facilitators: Paul Young and John Zeanah, with the Memphis/Shelby County Office of Sustainability; Kim Marousek, from St. Charles Parrish, LA; Ellen Lee, of the Greater New Orleans Foundation; Dan Lurie, with the National Endowment for the Arts; Salin Geevarghese, of the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and Annett Pagan, from Winrock International.

During the meeting, the group generated a focused conversation on place-based local economic development in the Delta region, discussed effective strategies to improve current efforts, and identified opportunities for federal partners and private philanthropy to work together to improve the Delta. The meeting also served as a regionally-focused platform through which to introduce members of these various circles to one another and develop partnerships among them. Going forward, DRA plans to build a coalition among these and other stakeholders in order to uphold our commitment to strengthening partnerships that support Delta communities.

# Eight-State Regional Broadband Summit

## FY 2012 Update

In coordination with the launch of the partnership with Connect2Compete (C2C), Delta Regional Authority hosted the first-ever Regional Broadband Summit for the Delta on October 23. The conference hosted more than 100 community leaders, economic developers, broadband providers, and broadband advocates for a day-long series of panels discussing potential expansion of broadband availability and adoption in the Delta region. Panels featured: a region-wide update of each state's efforts in bringing broadband to its people; strategies for increasing accessibility and adoption of broadband; and examples of successful initiatives throughout the country outlined by Ted Abernathy, Executive Director of the Southern Growth Policies Board, Rich Usher, Assistant City Manager of Kansas City, MO—the first host city of Google Fiber, and Zach Leverenz, CEO of Connect2Compete – which is implementing a pilot broadband program in the Delta.

An afternoon panel highlighted federal programs and other funding sources to enhance broadband connectivity in cities and counties through a discussion between Mary Campanola, Special Projects Coordinator for the Telecommunications Program of USDA Rural Utilities Service; Raquel Noriega, Chief Policy Counsel for Connected Nation; and Jessica Dent, former Executive Director of Connecting Alabama. Additionally, Tony Wilhelm, Director of the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, a division of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, gave special remarks emphasizing the importance of the federal program funding sources available to communities and utilities.

**“The Broadband Summit provided an unprecedented forum for regional leaders and federal officials to continue the conversation on how best to expand access to broadband service to all Americans.”**

Finally, participants heard an analysis of the potential impact of broadband expansion on jobs and education featuring Kathy Lively, Executive Director of Connect SI Foundation; Arkansas State Senator Linda Chesterfield, co-chair of the Joint Committee on Advanced Communication and Information Technology for K-12 education; and Michael Dumont with Vision Perry, a county program that has transformed the local economy into an IT services cluster by providing workforce training for the local population.

To emphasize the importance of Broadband and the expanded audience broadband capabilities bring to any endeavor, Arkansas Capital Corporation live-streamed the event on its website and at [www.dra.gov](http://www.dra.gov). The Broadband Summit provided an unprecedented forum for regional leaders and federal officials to continue the conversation on how best to expand access to broadband service to all Americans.

## Expectations and Predictions for FY 2013

In the coming year, the DRA will be exploring further options for engagement of state broadband initiatives and interested constituents to continue the conversation of bringing universal broadband access to the Delta region. The Obama administration has begun to highlight opportunities for broadband expansion in the coming year, and the DRA continues to work closely with the region's broadband experts to support this focus on broadband accessibility and connectivity for the region's population.



# Ensuring Capacity in Rural Organizations

Many rural non-profit organizations lack the capacity to successfully manage federal grant/project development funds thereby making ineffective the administration of such funds and possibly stalling economic growth. DRA, at the behest of the White House Rural Council, convened two roundtable stakeholder sessions with the goal of understanding and reporting the challenges that rural organizations face in managing federal grant/project development funds. As the hosting organization, DRA sought to identify what challenges hinder awardees from effectively executing federal projects and how the federal government can best help them use project development money. The White House Rural Council offered its full support and assistance to Delta Regional Authority in completing this task.

In accordance with an existing initiative designed to strengthen the capacity of Local Development Districts to administer grants in its service area, DRA commissioned the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) to facilitate the Ensuring Capacity sessions. Brian Kelsey, Director of Economic Development at NADO, assisted in the facilitation of these sessions alongside DRA Federal Co-Chairman Chris Masingill. These two sessions convened recipients of various federal grant/project development funds, representing the academic community; large, regional non-profit organizations; local municipalities; and small, independent non-profit organizations.

## Summary of Participant Observations

Participants pointed out that the wide variability in the formats and requirements of applications prove daunting for small organizations, as does the process of finding out about opportunities; “Grants.gov” is not effective. In addition, once groups find out about project opportunities, requirements such as cash match create a significant barrier for small organizations, while other requirements, such as logic models, are “useless” to organizations that have to develop them in order to apply. Several participants raised concerns that a number of grant programs, while technically open to small organizations, consistently large organizations as awardees. The opportunity cost for small organizations of an unsuccessful application in such cases is significant.

**“Well-trained and informed field staff from granting agencies and/or intermediary organizations can provide substantial and important support that improves effectiveness and capacity for rural organizations.”**

In managing and implementing grant/project development funds, participants noted that additional information was often needed on compliance and, in particular, establishing indirect costs. Variability in requirements for reporting and compliance among grant/project development funds, sources and agencies typically strains the capacities of organizations. Small organizations also listed concerns with lag time in payments, the practice of holding back a percentage of the project development award until the completion of a project, and the lack of grant/project development funds to pay for reporting and compliance. At the same time, participants indicated that well-trained and informed field staff from granting agencies and/or intermediary organizations can provide substantial and important support that improves effectiveness and capacity for rural organizations.

## Summary of Recommendations

- Agencies serving rural communities should initiate comparable stakeholder sessions, in which agency grant/project development managers would participate with their current and potential grantees/awardees to listen to their needs, and draft recommendations for improving access and the capacity of organizations to use federal funds effectively.

# Ensuring Capacity in Rural Organizations

- Convene grants/project development managers within and across agencies to develop more consistent application, documentation, and reporting requirements.
- Develop and provide training specific to particular project development programs and awardees, that are relevant to pressing issues of management, accountability, and reporting.
- Establish and make readily available skilled professionals within project development opportunities who can provide guidance, support, and assistance to rural awardees; this can be done with federal staff or through intermediary organizations.
- Consider establishing specific categories within grants/project development programs for small organizations that account for their unique circumstance, e.g., adjusting match requirements, providing allowances for administrative costs, etc.
- Provide resources to support the development of partnerships as a stepping stone to creating capacity for regional and community strategies and as a precursor to, or a part of, project development-making .
- In the longer term, develop and make available appropriate documentation, accounting, and reporting software that could be used consistently across grant platforms and that would fit seamlessly with grants/project development application, organization, and implementation.



# Healthy Delta Initiative

Through its Healthy Delta Initiative (HDI), the DRA continues to highlight the importance of health to the region as a whole. The growing incidence of chronic disease in the region poses a threat to the lives, livelihoods, productivity, and economic vitality of the Delta. Within DRA states, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that more than 3.3 million people suffer from diabetes. Improving health outcomes by addressing the toll of chronic disease through prevention and behavior change promises to strengthen workforce productivity and spur economic development throughout Delta communities.

The Healthy Delta Initiative's began in fiscal year 2011 to tackle the toll of chronic disease through stakeholder meetings with governors, state Health and Human Service directors, and local community leaders. DRA then expanded its approach and met with White House staff, the United States Surgeon General, and regional directors of federal agencies that share its concerns for the health of our region's citizens.

Since 2011, the DRA's Healthy Delta Initiative has consistently convened rural health advocacy organizations and rural health government agencies for the purpose of developing strategic partnerships in the Delta Region. These collaborations have yielded opportunities for more than 400 participants to receive technical assistance in how to access federal funding.

## FY 2012 Update

### **White House Rural Council Health IT Forums**

In August, the DRA teamed up with the White House Rural Council, the Health Resources and Services Administration, and the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to host two workshops in the region. Both workshops featured national and regional leaders discussing the future of the health information technology (health IT) workforce and the role of community colleges in the Delta. The workshops were held at Dyersburg State Community College in Dyersburg, Tennessee, and at Hinds Community College outside of Jackson, Mississippi.

### **The Rural Health IT Loan Fund**

The DRA and the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) partnered with HHS's Office of Minority Health to spur the transition to electronic health records in the Delta region. Specifically, this project seeks to encourage health care providers who are eligible for meaningful-use incentives (physicians and dentists) in Delta communities to successfully adopt and utilize a Health IT system as defined by federal law.

The DRA is offering interest free loans of up to \$7,500 to small healthcare provider offices (HPOs) throughout the region to be used to install and adopt an EHR system. Participating providers will be eligible to participate in a free training module offered by AHIMA. Providers practicing in a Medically Underserved Area (MUA) or Health Provider Shortage Area (HPSA) designated by HRSA are encouraged to apply. This program was designed in FY 2012 and announced and made available to applicants in FY 2013.

## First Quarter FY 2013 Status

During the first quarter of the fiscal year, HDI made two new investments available. The DRA announced the Healthy Workforce Challenge opportunity in affiliation with HRSA through the White House Rural Council and also opened to applicants the revolving loan

# Healthy Delta Initiative

program to expand Health IT in rural and medically underserved areas. Both programs are currently open to new applicants, and the DRA is in the process of encouraging qualified entities to apply for both initiatives.

Further, the DRA continues to work on opportunities in partnership with Delta states to promote best practices and support state efforts to improve health outcomes.

## **The Healthy Workforce Challenge**

The Healthy Delta Initiative is undertaking a new collaboration that leverages HDI funding with funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Applicants to HRSA's Delta State Rural Development Network Grant Program are invited to apply directly to the DRA for an additional \$100,000 - \$250,000 in one-time, supplemental funding to conduct a Healthy Workforce Challenge pilot program. The DRA intends to provide an estimated \$500,000 in awards, depending on the quality of the applications submitted.

Applicants must simultaneously apply to the DRA and HRSA and must first be awarded a Delta State Rural Development Network Grant in order to be considered for the supplemental DRA funding. DRA Healthy Workforce Challenge projects must involve the development of pilot programs that work with local business and industry to incentivize healthy living through behavior change in the workplace. At minimum, this behavior change should include a focus on smoking cessation, weight loss, exercise programs such as documentable activity logs, regular health checks and improved healthy lifestyles. These programs could include new ways to encourage employees to take advantage of existing incentives designed to influence healthy living in the workplace. Letters of Intent were due on February 15, with final applications due on March 15. Funding decisions are expected to be announced in the early summer with funding set to begin by August of 2013.

## **Healthy Delta Regional Data Reports**

The HDI is currently completing the process of creating substantive county-level health data reports for the 252 counties within the eight-state region. This specialized health data will be available for use on the DRA website in early 2013. This data will prove helpful to community-based organizations and other groups applying for public and privately-funded grants to improve health outcomes in the region. Examples of these groups include, but are not limited to, the Arkansas Rural Health Partnership and the Mid-Delta Community Consortium.

## **State Partnerships**

The DRA is partnering with Arkansas' Office of Health Information Technology to make a joint investment through SEDAP in linking all of the state's small rural and critical access hospitals to the Arkansas SHARE network. During the remainder of 2013, the DRA envisions continuing to partner with regional and national health teams to combat chronic disease and to work with Governors to support their efforts to improve the health of the region.

## Expectations and Projections for the Remainder of FY 2013

The Healthy Delta Initiative will continue to look for new ways to engage with our communities on health issues in 2013. The Healthy Workforce Challenge pilot programs will be selected and announced in the early part of the year and will give the DRA access to new



# Healthy Delta Initiative

ideas and data that can help business and industry improve the health of their workforces, impacting the entire region. The DRA may also pursue two possibilities for a broader HDI engagement:

- To work with HRSA and the CDC to arrange local technical assistance workshops in the region discussing healthy weight issues and combating chronic disease; and
- To partner with state governors and entities engaged in enrolling citizens newly eligible for Medicaid and to provide information about the health care reforms that are underway.

## Overview

Consistent with its current success in promoting economic development, the DRA believes that the following principles should guide its efforts in the health arena:

1. **Empowerment:** sustainability requires that local leadership be empowered to own their health issues and the locally-specific solutions.
2. **Local Determination/Local Effort:** similarly, local solutions should be driven by grassroots efforts so that programs are tailored to the needs of each area and local leadership is invested in the process and outcomes.
3. **Accountability:** all investments require accountability to ensure efficient and appropriate use of resources. Currently, SEDAP requires that local agencies sign a contract to deliver promised outcomes or forfeit project development monies. A similar approach should be used with the health program to ensure realistic goals and responsible management of funds.
4. **Coordination/Alignment:** building on its strengths as coordinator, facilitator and relationship-builder, the DRA should emphasize activities that:
  - leverage other federal, state, and local funding;
  - bring together various agencies and groups with similar interests or responsibilities;
  - compile and organize information on health needs, best practices, and available funding so that it is easily accessible for local leadership in the Delta; and
  - work to eliminate fragmentation and duplication of federal, state and local efforts.
5. **Monitoring and Updating:** to ensure maximum relevance and impact, the DRA must continuously monitor and update the information it makes available and its communication and coordination methods.

Researchers at Harvard University's School of Public Health recently completed a major project on life expectancy, the residual of which was an extensive database of life expectancy data at the county level. Building on this database, we found that life expectancy changes have a high correlation with job growth. While public health is often taken for granted in the U.S., in the least developed countries stabilizing public health often comes before literacy and education as a policy priority. The relationship between health and economic development goes beyond the fact that healthy people live longer and are therefore able to be productive members of society longer. Healthy people also show up regularly for work, they cost their employers less in health care, and their productivity is higher. All of these things bode well for economic development efforts. DRA's priorities focus on programs that improve public health.

# Healthy Delta Initiative

IF JOB GROWTH INCREASES 1%	
Life Expectancy Over 15 Years	4.6%
Domestic Migration	3.8%
Technical & Professional Occupations	2.6%
Foreign-Born Population	1.9%
Self-Employed	0.3%
Jobs (From Companies Started in Last 5 Years)	0.3%
Public School Enrollment	0.2%

DRA's "Healthy Delta Initiative" (HDI) is an ideal example of this type of priority already in practice. The Regional Development Plan, which provides further context for the If Job Growth Increase 1% table, can be found on the DRA website at: <http://www.dra.gov/%21userfiles/editor/docs/>.

Through its Healthy Delta Initiative, the DRA has highlighted the importance of health to the region as a whole. In addition to its direct implications on quality of life, the critical mass community analysis suggests a direct link between health (measured in changes in life expectancy) and economic vitality. With substantially high rates of chronic disease, the productivity of the Delta is severely compromised.





# Innovative Readiness Training

## FY 2012 Update

Improving the lives of 24,000 Delta residents is one measurement that shows how impactful the partnership between the Department of Defense (DOD) Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program and the Delta Regional Authority has become. For the most recent training event, “Operation Alabama Blackbelt” saw 250 military doctors, nurses, and other professionals in just two weeks providing health services to 17,000 patients in Hayneville, AL, Selma, AL, Demopolis, AL, and the surrounding areas. The health professionals provide general medical care as well as dentistry and eye care, two demanding health care needs throughout the region.

Governor Bentley said, “I know [this IRT mission] is going to do a lot of good, and you are going to see a lot of patients. I’m tired of Alabama having one of the highest infant mortality rates in the country.” He continued, “So, I would like to see Alabama get healthy. And [the IRT program] being here helps us do that.”

The Authority is proud to be part of such a worthwhile project that benefits the Delta region, its people, and its economy. When people are sick, they cannot do their job, be with their families, and support their communities. It is our hope that by getting that tooth pulled, giving someone new glasses, diagnosing high blood pressure and identifying stress and poor diet as the causes, and providing the medicine and advice needed for Delta residents to better their health, we may positively affect our patients, their environment, and the region.

## First Quarter FY 2013 Status

The Innovative Readiness Training program is one of the largest ways the DRA can contribute to both the training of our troops and the health of our people. Since October planning has been underway on numerous IRT projects. Currently in the planning process there are three projects scheduled for this summer: Hope of Martin, TN; Mississippi Medical providing health-care to Tunica, Marks, Rosedale, Clarksdale, MS and Helena, AR; and the Four State Medical mission that will provide health care services to residents in Blytheville, Arkansas; Mayfield, Kentucky; Hayti, Missouri; and Dyersburg, Tennessee.

**“These programs are in keeping with a long military tradition of leveraging training to benefit both units and their home communities.”**

An initial planning meeting was held in Martin, TN for Hope of Martin in late September due to deployment of the group’s leader, planning for the Mississippi Medical took place in November and the Four State Medical in December. Currently, mid-planning conferences are being held for these projects, with final details, schedules, and lists of personnel to come.

The Authority is proud to be part of such a worthwhile project that benefits the Delta region, its people, and its economy. When people are sick, they cannot do their job, be with their families, and support their communities. It is our hope that by getting that tooth pulled, giving someone new glasses, diagnosing high blood pressure and identifying stress and poor diet as the causes, and providing the medicine and advice needed for Delta residents to better their health, we may positively affect our patients, their environment, and the region.

# Innovative Readiness Training

Expectations/Projections for the remainder of FY 2013

Dates for 2013 Medical Missions:

- Hope of Martin, TN: July 7-19, 2013
- Mississippi Medical: July 14-28, 2013 (Clarksdale, Tunica, Rosedale, Marks and Helena, AR)
- Four-State Medical: August 1-17, 2013 (Blytheville, AR, Mayfield, KY, Hayti, MO and Dyersburg, TN)

Planning:

The DRA looks forward to partnering with DOD for numerous confirmed IRT projects over the next couple of years. In 2014 IRT will partner with DRA on projects in Arkansas, Illinois, and Louisiana.

- 2014 Southern Illinois Medical- Locations: Harrisburg, Cairo, Marion, and Mounds, IL
- 2014 Arkansas Medical – Locations: Forrest City, Wynne, Brinkley, McCroy and Newport, AR
- 2014 Southern Louisiana – Abbeville, LA, Vermillion Parish
- 2014 Northern Louisiana- Tensas Parish area- Winnsboro, Delhi and Tallulah, LA

Background

The purpose of the Civil-Military Programs under DOD is to improve military readiness while simultaneously providing quality services to communities throughout America. These programs are in keeping with a long military tradition of leveraging training to benefit both units and their home communities. They are strongly supported by DOD, Congress, the states, and respective communities.

These military services have always brought to bear their extensive resources to help meet some of the country's civil needs. In recent years, DOD has further realized the simultaneous benefits these civil-military programs can offer to military readiness. In July 2009, DRA first partnered with DOD to bring IRT programs to the Delta region. Past communities in the DRA region selected by the Pentagon for the 2009 and 2011 IRT programs include Clarksdale, Mississippi; Hayneville, Alabama; and Helena-West Helena, Wynne, Marianna, Eudor, and McGhee, Arkansas.



# Jobs for America's Graduates

Jobs for America's Graduates, Inc. (JAG) is the nation's largest and, arguably, the most successful school-to-work system for at-risk and disadvantaged youth. JAG focuses on keeping students in school through graduation, equipping them with the academic and technical skills necessary to improve their employability, which is parallel to DRA's commitment to invest in strategies that boost employment and educational success.

## FY 2012 Update

Jobs for America's Graduates and its participating JAG State Affiliates through our partnership have:

- Provided direct outreach to several Governors of the DRA states, including in-person and telephone briefings on the DRA-JAG initiatives and the impact of the project development funds on their respective states;
- Held briefings for various State Superintendents of Education, Secretaries of Labor, school boards, principals, Workforce Investment Boards and community leaders in the six DRA states where JAG is operational;
- Briefed and organized the JAG State Affiliates who subsequently provided support and guidance to potential schools within the DRA service area. The goal in each case was to determine which schools possessed the requisite commitments of funding, space, student access, commitment to delivering the JAG model, and agreement to target the most at-risk young people in the schools;
- Organized multiple teleconference briefings and coordination sessions with the State Affiliate leaders to launch the program in targeted schools;
- Organized and conducted training sessions at the National Training Seminar of JAG in July for State Affiliate leaders and local staff involved in the project;
- Engaged the DRA Federal Co-Chairman at the JAG National Thought Leader Event, to lead a panel focused on strategies to combat unemployment in youth, with a strong emphasis on rural America. This was done under the leadership of Governor Jack Markell of Delaware – concurrently Chairman of Jobs for America's Graduates and the National Governors Association - with the engagement of U.S. Senator Tom Carper, former Michigan Governor John Engler (President and CEO of the Business Roundtable), Katherine Haley (Senior Policy Advisor to U.S. Speaker of the House John Boehner), and other public and private sector leaders;
- Organized a joint press event among DRA Federal Co-Chairman Masingill and JAG Chairman Governor Markell to announce the partnership at the February 2012 National Governor's Conference; and Job's for America's Graduates
- Arranged for briefing and national recognition of the Delta Regional Authority for its partnership with Jobs for America's Graduates with the Board of Directors of JAG and 700 others in attendance, including representatives from the DRA states at the JAG 2012 National Leadership Awards in November.

## First Quarter FY 2013 Status

The JAG model is currently operating in seven schools and school districts:

McGehee School District, Arkansas;  
Mid-South Community College, Arkansas;  
Caruthersville School District, Missouri;  
Kennett School District, Missouri;  
West Baton Rouge School District, Louisiana;  
O'Bannon High School, Mississippi; and  
Riverside High School, Mississippi.

# Jobs for America's Graduates

All of the schools have secured matching resources from within the schools, community sources, and local participating Workforce Investment Boards totaling at least one-and-one-half to two-and-one-half times the amount contributed from the DRA. Training and technical assistance have been provided by Jobs for America's Graduates in support of the Affiliates for training, delivery of the National Curriculum, the JAG Electronic Data Management System, the JAG Career Association, and various operating handbooks and other information.

## Expectations and Projections for FY 2013

- 1) **To provide additional schools (who do not have the JAG program) with a \$20,000 grant in the DRA service area to implement the program,** securing the additional resources necessary to fully fund the implementation of the JAG model from a collaborative investment from schools, Workforce Investment Boards, and other local public and private sector funding sources. As a practical matter, program expansion requires an over-match of DRA funding of at least 150 percent (\$30,000 and, in most cases, at least double the DRA investment for a total of \$60,000). The overall \$60,000 is manifested through the implementation of the full JAG model over a 12-month cycle, serving 35-45 of the highest-risk youth within a community.
- 2) **To provide for each of the participating JAG State Affiliates the technical assistance, training, and support for the organization and delivery of the JAG model,** including the JAG National Employability Skills Curriculum, the JAG Electronic Data Management System for tracking and reporting on services to and progress of each of the young people in the program, and trouble-shooting assistance to assure the successful implementation of the program.



# Local Development District Strengthening Initiative

## FY 2012 Update

The Delta Regional Authority maintains a strong partnership with the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Research Foundation. NADO is responsible for developing and implementing programs aimed at strengthening the performance, programs, and results of the 45 Local Development Districts (LDDs) serving the DRA region. This initiative will help LDDs develop an outreach strategy to educate and inform various stakeholders about their many roles within their respective regions.

In an effort to provide more stringent accountability and a more refined scope on the part of both the LDD and the Authority, DRA instituted a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), which is signed by each LDD. Accordingly, the Authority has been in communication with NADO and Management Concepts, Inc. to provide training for LDDs. This training will allow LDDs to become DRA-Certified Strategic Partner Affiliates. It is anticipated the certification process will require LDD members to attend an annual training session, which shall provide an in-depth review of pre and post-award administration assistance, peer-led group discussions on best practices, and compliance training.

Through this process of professional skills development, DRA will be able to build toward a standard of excellence for all LDDs. With a limited number of staff at DRA, it is evident our partnerships with the LDDs are increasingly important when it comes to expanding our reach throughout the Delta. When all partners are informed and educated to a particular standard, DRA staff can rely on the quality of the documentation content and accountability at all levels can be more closely measured.

## First Quarter FY 2013 Status

During the first three months of fiscal year 2013, DRA staff have engaged in conversations with NADO leadership on the substance and delivery of this training component. This team has met with Management Concepts, the premier provider of training and professional development solutions serving the public and private sectors, to develop the curriculum for this initiative. Management Concepts has provided pricing and guidance on how best to edit their standard training packages to fit our unique need.

## Expectations and Projections

In the next three months, DRA and NADO will conduct the training course, bringing DRA program personnel from each LDD to a central location (i.e. Memphis, TN), for an intensive two-day course. At the end of the course, a test will be administered to assess the comprehension and retention of information. For those passing the coursework, their office will be recognized by DRA as a Certified Strategic Partner Affiliate. This will mean, that for the upcoming year, the LDD is meeting the requirements of the LDD-MOA and projects developed and submitted by their office will be accepted for review by DRA staff.

Additional coursework discussions with NADO will be held after the conclusion of this first year. A follow-up survey to those attending will be provided and evaluated for suggestions to the course delivery and development. This will allow the LDDs to play a role in designing their future skills development.

# Make it in America Challenge

## First Quarter FY 2013 Status

With the President's emphasis on interagency collaboration, the Make it in America Challenge combines the resources of the U.S. Economic Development Administration, the U.S. Department of Labor, the National Institute of Standards and Technology Manufacturing Extension Partnership, and the Delta Regional Authority in one funding opportunity focused on the Administration's top priority: strengthening the national economy and creating American jobs. In order to lay a foundation for an economy built to last, the Administration has encouraged businesses to bring production back to the United States or expand their operations here. The United States offers significant competitive advantages – from a strong business climate to a highly-skilled and productive workforce – that make it a profitable place for businesses to invest. By investing in expanding in America, businesses can help put more Americans back to work.

**“Make it in America Challenge will help workers develop the skills they need to do the jobs of a 21st century global economy.”**

The Make it in America Challenge will provide \$40 million in competitive funding across the nation, with up to \$900,000 in investment from DRA who will play a significant role in ensuring that those applicants in the Delta region are competitive in the application process. DRA expects to approve up to three separate awards of up to \$300,000 each within the DRA region for a period of up to two years, funding projects that also leverage funds from other partner agencies in the Make it in America Challenge.

The Authority is working to help stakeholders in the Delta thrive by providing financial and technical support for small businesses to grow and expand and improving education and training opportunities to develop a skilled workforce. DRA is also working with communities across the region to help them meet the needs of businesses that want to build or expand their operations in the Delta.

In addition to preparing communities for business development, the Make it in America Challenge will help workers develop the skills they need to do the jobs of a 21st century global economy. By investing in high-growth industries, spurring small business development, and encouraging job creation, this Challenge and the DRA are helping to support businesses in the Delta region and throughout the country that are committed to making it in America.

## Expectations/Projections for the remainder of FY 2013

The Funds From Operation (FFO) will be released the week of February 18, 2013.



# Operation JumpStart

## Fiscal Year 2012 Update

During 2012, two Operation JumpStart projects were executed: JumpStarting Missouri Communities Post Flood and the Rural Entrepreneurial Development project.

JumpStarting Missouri Communities Post Flood assisted flood-impacted counties in Missouri in their recovery by identifying four flood disaster areas and leveraging DRA's Operation JumpStart's resources. Awaiting a final report, the project is expected to have reached 80 participants who will go on to start 25 new small businesses and create 35 new jobs.

**“These programs are expected to train an additional 340 entrepreneurs and create another 118 new businesses.”**

The Rural Entrepreneurial Development project provided additional funding for sub-grants to be competitively awarded to certified Operation JumpStart programs across the Delta region. Twelve programs received grants to support training across all eight states and have completed the training through the end of the year. 420 individuals completed the 36-hour training programs and started 148 new businesses.

The success of DRA's Operation JumpStart model sprouts from three critical elements that lead entrepreneurs to sustainable business creation:

1. **Curriculum:** delivering the First Step FastTrac entrepreneurial training curriculum created and maintained by the Kauffman Foundation for Entrepreneurship;
2. **Trainers:** utilizing experienced, certified, and caring trainers; and
3. **Capital:** providing competitive mini-grants and micro loans to assist founders who lack adequate start-up capital and participants in connecting with providers of affordable capital.

This formula has consistently produced new small businesses which are sustained at the rate of 95 percent through two years of operation, a higher percentage than the national average of 55 percent. These new businesses create an average of approximately 1.6 jobs at an average programmatic cost of approximately \$7,000.

## Expectations and Predictions for the remainder of FY 2013

The second phase of the Rural Entrepreneurial Development project has begun, which will provide investments in another 12 Operation JumpStart programs across the region.

The awardees are:

- The University of West Alabama Division of Outreach Services – Livingston, AL;
- Batesville Area Chamber of Commerce – Batesville, AR;
- Mid-South Community College Foundation, Inc. – West Memphis, AR;
- Shawnee Community College – Ullin, IL;
- Hopkinsville Community College – Hopkinsville, KY;
- Murray State University – Regional Business and Innovation Center – Murray, KY;

# Operation JumpStart

- Bridging the GAPS Ministry of Northeast Louisiana – Monroe, LA;
- Greater North Louisiana Community Development Corporation – Jonesboro, LA;
- Holmes Community College – Goodman, MS;
- Mississippi Action for Community Education, Inc. – Greenville, MS;
- Ozarks Small Business Incubator – West Plains, MO; and
- SeedCo Organization – Memphis, TN.

Development of a web-based platform is also underway to deliver Operation JumpStart through the affiliate network. Many aspiring entrepreneurs in the region do not have the resources or schedule flexibility to travel to the nearest program site. Online JumpStart will be accessible to all aspiring entrepreneurs in the region using state-of-the-art technology.

Features will include interactive content, virtual mentoring and coaching, and online post-graduation business plan completion management tools. Operation JumpStart will select affiliates as pilot partners and coach those partners in the completion of a comprehensive marketing plan to recruit participants. One online course will be piloted in each state, resulting in a total of 80 trained individuals, 10 new ventures, and 25 new jobs created.

DRA's Operation JumpStart Online will capture the qualities of the face-to-face program, providing an equally effective training and development experience. One medium Operation JumpStart Online will take advantage of to ensure the success of its participants is the QM Rubric from the Quality Matters program. According to their website, the QM Rubric is "a set of 8 general standards and 41 specific standards used to evaluate the design of online and blended courses."

## Overview

DRA's Operation JumpStart is administered by the Douglas C. Greene Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Southeast Missouri State University (CIE). Over the course of several projects, the program has been scaled up and proven to be highly successful throughout the region at developing new job-creating businesses.

During 2011, the DRA implemented a project called Accelerating Entrepreneurship in the Delta. These symposia were conducted in all eight Delta states, training business advisors and program administrators to implement DRA's Operation JumpStart programs. More than 120 economic development or community organizations completed the certification training. Four Operation These programs are expected to train an additional 340 entrepreneurs and create another 118 new businesses.

Sixty-six participants graduated from these Operation JumpStart programs, an average of 16.5 participants per class. The 66 graduates represented an overall 86 percent graduation rate from the six-week program.

Those graduating were allowed to participate in a business plan competition held at the end of each course. In these competitions and independent review committee evaluated students' business plans and awarded seed capital to the most viable plans. CIE contributed \$25,000 to each of the four programs in addition to support from the East Missouri Action Agency and several community banks totaling \$31,300 in seed money for competition winners to launch new businesses in the video services, construction, funeral home services, and energy audit industries. Based on the number of businesses started (with and without seed capital funding) 27.5 jobs were created.





# Operation JumpStart

Successful recruiting for Operation JumpStart courses has been a critical success factor. Initially, courses were marketed through economic development departments, chambers of commerce, former graduates, and news media outlets. Organizational learning has led to the development of a “canvassing” program in communities in and around the designated Operation JumpStart locations. Canvassing consists of a team of one to three individuals who spend a day or two in each community six weeks and four weeks prior to the start of a scheduled Operation JumpStart program. The objective is to communicate the availability of the DRA’s program to economic development leaders, bankers, attorneys, and accountants. These leaders are asked to refer potential participants as well as serve as a coach or guest presenter for the class. Through these efforts, the canvassing program has proven to be an effective and valuable marketing model.

# Rural Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge



*A new type of initiative from the Obama Administration provided DRA with a unique opportunity to join with other federal agencies (USDA and EDA among others) to leverage resources for the benefit of rural communities. DRA was honored to be included in this innovative approach to making rural investments and the DRA region will benefit greatly from the projects funded. In this cycle, two projects 1) Accelerating Jobs and Innovation through Community and Economic Development in Mississippi and 2) I-20*

*Corridor Regional Business Accelerator, will leverage over \$1.5 million in other federal funds and \$30.6 million in other private funds to help create and retain over 500 jobs and establish 12 new businesses.*

## FY 2012 Update

The Rural Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge (Rural Jobs Accelerator) is an inter-agency funding opportunity designed to provide regions with the resources to plan and implement coordinated, flexible, regionally-customized activities capable of helping rural regions capitalize on the benefits of regional innovation clusters.

## Objectives

- 1) Accelerate rural distressed communities' ability to create jobs and strengthen their regional economies, and
- 2) Help rural communities identify local assets and connect to regional opportunities and self-identified clusters that demonstrate high-growth potential.

Two projects have been awarded DRA investments of \$250,000 each. The first is *Accelerating Jobs and Innovation through Community and Economic Development in Mississippi*, through Mississippi State University. This project leverages \$815,000 in other public investment and \$30 million in private investment while helping to create and retain 500 jobs in three separate economic clusters (automotive, furniture, agri-business). The second project to receive funding is the *I-20 Corridor Regional Business Accelerator*, through Winrock International and Louisiana Tech University. This project leverages \$714,134 in other public investment and \$600,000 in private investment while helping to establish 12 new businesses, creating at a minimum 36 jobs in the following cluster areas: information technology, energy, green technology, and biosciences.

**“Connecting rural America to industry clusters is crucial not only for the direct benefit rural communities receive through new education, training and high-wage job opportunities, but also for the long-term competitiveness of the wider regional and U.S. economy.”**

Recognizing the importance of these objectives, the Taskforce for the Advancement of Regional Innovation Clusters (TARIC) and the White House Rural Council developed the Rural Jobs Accelerator so that regions across the nation can compete for complementary Federal resources to mitigate gaps and leverage opportunities specific to their region to advance self-identified, high-potential industry clusters. Resources were made available through the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA), the Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), and the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) (each a Funding Agency).



# Rural Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge

DRA funds may be used to assist in the economic development of rural areas by providing technical assistance for business development and economic development planning. ARC funds may be used to address gaps in a community's entrepreneurial ecosystem to promote the growth and competitiveness of an identified industry cluster.

USDA investments through the Rural Jobs Accelerator support projects that propose to identify and build regional assets through regional collaboration. USDA activities include providing technical assistance to develop rural communities' capacity and ability to undertake projects related to housing, community facilities, or economic and community development. EDA's investments support projects that foster regional linkages between communities and innovation clusters to support job creation, expanded markets, and economic growth. Activities include connecting markets, supply chains, capital, technology, and workforce networks.

Through the use of these coordinated investments, Rural Jobs Accelerator activities will:

- Accelerate the creation of high-wage jobs;
- Accelerate the formation of new businesses and growth of existing businesses;
- Identify and build assets in rural communities that are crucial to supporting regional economic ecosystems;
- Link rural communities to markets, networks, industry clusters, and other regional opportunities;
- Facilitate the relocation of jobs back to the United States;
- Support the deployment of innovative processes, technologies, and products;
- Enhance the capacity of small businesses in regional innovation clusters, including small and disadvantaged businesses;
- Increase exports and business interaction with international buyers and suppliers;
- Develop the skills and expertise of entrepreneurs, the workforce, and institutional partners to support growing clusters; and
- Ensure rural economies are supported by efficiently planned housing and community development.

Rural communities possess many unique assets necessary to participate in their regional economy and often provide the critical resources to foster high-potential industry clusters including renewable energy, food production, rural tourism, natural resources, and advanced manufacturing. However, rural communities are often challenged by relative isolation, low population densities, and scarcity of services and resources. Connecting rural America to industry clusters is crucial not only for the direct benefit rural communities receive through new education, training and high-wage job opportunities, but also for the long-term competitiveness of the wider regional and U.S. economy.

Clusters emerge as a result of private enterprises taking advantage of a region's assets and strengths in the business environment, and are often supported by intermediaries and other institutions that help provide information and connections. Research and experience have shown that building on a region's economic strengths is the most effective strategy for economic development. In a 2004 report, Michael Porter identified three ways in which clusters enhance the competitiveness of regions: improving productivity; fostering innovation; and facilitating the commercialization of innovation. The same report referenced a study which showed workers in a rural cluster earned 13 percent higher wages on average than employees in non-cluster-based economies.

# Rural Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge

To sustain a prosperous economy, rural communities must identify and build upon existing assets and traditional strengths to forge connections with the larger region of interconnected firms and supporting institutions. These connections provide opportunities for rural businesses and workers to become participants and contributors to regional innovation and competitiveness. As workers are exposed to new training and skills they may become entrepreneurs, business owners, and leaders in a sustainable cluster network. Businesses may become integral suppliers to a larger producer and help clusters reach new markets. In this way, rural communities draw on their rich history as entrepreneurs to contribute to a regional economic ecosystem that leverages both local and regional assets to fuel economic growth.

## First Quarter FY 2013 Status

During the first quarter of fiscal year 2013 both projects funded by DRA finalized their award documents and were issued authorization to proceed with their projects. Winrock International began marketing activities for the proposed entrepreneur development classes and in three locations 22 participants out of 26 successfully completed the course. Technical assistance was provided by a CPA/MBA to each of the participants to help further develop each student's feasibility plan.

The MSU project prepared promotional materials for a Supervisor Training Model targeting the furniture sector, and partnering with Delta State University, MSU conducted a Financial Fundamentals Workshop. Plans are in place to begin work towards activities anticipated to be completed in subsequent quarters.

## Expectations/Projections for the remainder of FY 2013

Each project is in the beginning stages of their respective roll-outs, and a majority of their activities have yet to be accomplished. Winrock will look to provide these classes in several other locations, provide participants with one-on-one technical assistance, review and select business feasibility plans for mini-grants, and conduct evaluations of the program. MSU's plans for subsequent quarters include: training prospective entrepreneurs using the Kauffman Model, and conduct an export seminar in Indianola. These projects are both two-year projects and will impact a large portion of the DRA region including all of Mississippi and northern Louisiana. The goals as described are to educate and facilitate the delivery of quality technical assistance to encourage business development around industry clusters in rural areas. This year DRA is expanding its partnerships with EDA, USDA, and others to include other "challenge" opportunities, as this experience has proven to be successful in bringing additional leveraged dollars to the Delta region.



# Save the Children

Save the Children's partnership with the Delta Regional Authority has brought professional development opportunities to 52 of Save the Children's school-based literacy programs in the Delta region in rural areas of Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee; Save the Children is currently developing the program in Missouri. Save the Children's program specialists have provided high-quality professional development training and technical assistance directly to staff members and teachers working in these rural schools. As an additional economic benefit, Save the Children's literacy programs have provided free, quality afterschool childcare options for working parents.

## FY 2012 Update

Save the Children's literacy program is evaluated using STAR Reading™, which has been validated as an assessment tool by hundreds of scientific research studies. Two tests are administered at least 90 days apart and measure students' reading abilities at or above grade level and the progress they make.

Scores are measured in Normal Curve Equivalencies (NCEs). An NCE score is a standardized score (based on a normal distribution) in which scores represent equal intervals that range from 1 to 99. An increase of 2.0 NCE scores on STAR Reading™ represents an increase in reading proficiency in addition to the increase that would be expected from maturation and attendance throughout the normal academic school year. Results from the 2011-12 program year show the program is working:

	<b>% Regularly Participating Gaining 2.0 NCEs</b>	<b>% Children Maintaining 85% Correct</b>	<b>% Children Reading At or Above Grade Level: Pre-test</b>	<b>% Children Reading At or Above Grade Level: Post-test</b>
Alabama	52%	62%	15%	21%
Arkansas	71%	85%	11%	27%
Louisiana	66%	86%	8%	27%
Mississippi	70%	83%	13%	26%
Tennessee	73%	90%	11%	33%

Kindergarten and first grade students who do not yet have a sight word vocabulary of 100 words take the STAR Early Literacy™ test and graduate to STAR Reading™ once a 100 word benchmark has been achieved. The following table shows increases in Scale Score Points:

	<b>% of Regularly Participating Kindergarteners who Increased by 100 or More Scale Score Points</b>	<b>% of Regularly Participating First Graders who Increased by 110 or More Scale Score Points</b>
Alabama	65%	65%
Arkansas	69%	42%
Louisiana	40%	53%
Mississippi	59%	54%
Tennessee	79%	82%

# Save the Children

## First Quarter FY 2013 Status

**Objective: Serve rural areas in the Delta regions of Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee.** Save the Children's program specialists trained paraprofessionals and teachers to implement its school-based literacy programs in a total of 52 sites:

- Alabama: 4 sites
- Arkansas: 10 sites
- Louisiana: 6 sites
- Mississippi: 16 sites
- Tennessee: 16 sites

**Objective: Provide free, quality childcare to poor, working families.** Save the Children's afterschool literacy programs serve a total of 5,582 children:

- Alabama: 429
- Arkansas: 1,173
- Louisiana: 582
- Mississippi: 1,775
- Tennessee: 1,623

**Objective: Provide high-level skills training to 180 program employees and at least 180 teachers.** Save the Children's program specialists trained a total of 433 program employees and 103 teachers, as shown in the table below:

	Alabama	Arkansas	Louisiana	Mississippi	Tennessee	Total
Number of Staff Trained	17	29	51	185	151	433
Number of Teachers Trained	0	6	0	73	24	103



# Today's Delta

## FY 2012 Update

To genuinely address the pervasive issues faced by Delta residents, it is essential to identify and understand areas of distress - economic and otherwise - and fashion economic and community development investments and policy initiatives around these opportunities for improvement. The Delta Regional Authority does just that under the directive of the Obama Administration and its mandate from Congress. In Fall 2012, the DRA released *Today's Delta*, a publication that offers a comprehensive look at statistical trends in the Delta region. The first of its kind, *Today's Delta* serves as a resource to enable nearly 10 million Delta residents and others to compare and contrast county and state level statistics regarding important quality of life issues in the region and make informed policy and programming decisions to improve communities and people of the Delta.

The Delta Regional Authority aims to improve the lives of its residents by informing them, being responsive, and leveraging outcomes and resources. *Today's Delta* identifies regional trends such as positive population growth and inward migration thereby highlighting the region's strengths and combating ignorance and misinformation concerning the Delta. The DRA has made *Today's Delta* accessible to stakeholders by offering an electronic version online at: **[http://www.dra.gov/userfiles/editor/docs/web\\_DRA\\_TodaysDelta.pdf](http://www.dra.gov/userfiles/editor/docs/web_DRA_TodaysDelta.pdf)**.

## First Quarter FY 2013 Status

In Winter 2013, individual *Today's Delta* publications are set to be released for each state of the Delta Service area: Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, and Tennessee. The meticulous study will allow for further, more concentrated research by states to target and effectively address the unique problems that concern them and to capitalize on their strengths. Overall, *Today's Delta* allows for holistic assessment and analysis of the Delta's strengths and areas of need and growth. Thus informed analysis can be made, not only at regional and state levels, but also at a county-level.

## Expectations/Predictions for the remainder of the Year

The Delta Regional Authority aims to release *Today's Delta* annually, allowing residents of the Delta to identify statistical trends with both breadth and depth, so that DRA and its residents may work together to address the needs of its region and build a stronger Delta.

# White House Rural Council and the Mississippi River Navigability

The 2012 drought dropped Mississippi River channels to unsafe levels for the second half of the year spilling over into 2013, effectively exposing river traffic to previously unseen hazards, including destructive rock pinnacles, narrowing waterways, and sandbars. Recognizing the gravity of the Mississippi River's drastically low water levels, President Obama and Secretary Vilsack called a meeting of the White House Rural Council in early January 2013 to address this issue. The discussion resulted in expedited efforts by the US Army Corps of Engineers and US Coast Guard to clear the waterway of low-water hazards and maintain traffic along the river. Most importantly, the Corps has made a commitment for the future to maintain water levels with a minimum 10-foot draft, raising the previous standard by a foot.

The DRA is strident in advocating for appropriate action throughout the Mississippi River system in order to regulate river levels and maintain traffic patterns. Although the crisis has subsided with increased precipitation and efforts by the Corps, Coast Guard, and private industry, it is important that DRA finds ways to provide long-term actions that prevent the river from dipping below the optimum draft levels, so the nation's waterways transportation industry can move freely along the river and continue to deliver a livelihood to people throughout the region.

Beyond this immediate action, the DRA joins the Corps, other federal agencies on the White House Rural Council, and industry in a commitment to strengthening the infrastructure of the River. The DRA also supports the Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative in its efforts to bring mayors from communities along the river together for a unified voice in advocating for the protection and proper maintenance of the Mississippi River. The DRA's policy continues to harken back to the old "ounce of prevention" adage: to help communities build better infrastructure through dredging and more stable ports and to work with state and federal policymakers toward modernizing and clarifying protocols that will ensure a more sustainable river that can better withstand future droughts and other natural disasters. The DRA remains committed to protecting the industries, economies, and people of the Delta region for whom the Mississippi River is our heart and soul.





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## **Appendix**

# **United States Code Annotated Currentness**

## **Title 7. Agriculture**

### **Chapter 50. Agricultural Credit (Refs & Annos)**

#### **Subchapter VI. Delta Regional Authority**

##### **§ 2009aa. Definitions**

In this subchapter:

**(1) Authority**

The term “Authority” means the Delta Regional Authority established by section 2009aa-1 of this title.

**(2) Region**

The term “region” means the Lower Mississippi (as defined in section 4 of the Delta Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3121 note; Public Law 100-460)).

**(3) Federal grant program**

The term “Federal grant program” means a Federal grant program to provide assistance in--

- (A) acquiring or developing land;
- (B) constructing or equipping a highway, road, bridge, or facility; or
- (C) carrying out other economic development activities.

**(4) Alabama as participating State**

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the State of Alabama shall be a full member of the Delta Regional Authority and shall be entitled to all rights and privileges that said membership affords to all other participating States in the Delta Regional Authority.

##### **§ 2009aa-1. Delta Regional Authority**

**(a) Establishment**

**(1) In general**

There is established the Delta Regional Authority.

**(2) Composition**

The Authority shall be composed of--

- (A) a Federal member, to be appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate; and
- (B) the Governor (or a designee of the Governor) of each State in the region that elects to participate in the Authority.

**(3) Cochairpersons**

The Authority shall be headed by--

- (A) the Federal member, who shall serve--
  - (i) as the Federal cochairperson; and
  - (ii) as a liaison between the Federal Government and the Authority; and
- (B) a State cochairperson, who--
  - (i) shall be a Governor of a participating State in the region; and
  - (ii) shall be elected by the State members for a term of not less than 1 year.

**(b) Alternate members**

**(1) State alternates**

The State member of a participating State may have a single alternate, who shall be--

- (A) a resident of that State; and
- (B) appointed by the Governor of the State.

**(2) Alternate Federal cochairperson**

The President shall appoint an alternate Federal cochairperson.

**(3) Quorum**

A State alternate shall not be counted toward the establishment of a quorum of the Authority in any instance in which a quorum of the State members is required to be present.

**(4) Delegation of power**

No power or responsibility of the Authority specified in paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (c) of this section, and no voting right of any Authority member, shall be delegated to any person--

- (A) who is not an Authority member; or
- (B) who is not entitled to vote in Authority meetings.



**(c) Voting**

**(1) In general--voting**

A decision by the Authority shall require the affirmative vote of the Federal cochairperson and a majority of the State members (not including any member representing a State that is delinquent under subsection (g)(2)(C)) to be effective.

**(2) Quorum**

A quorum of State members shall be required to be present for the Authority to make any policy decision, including--

- (A) a modification or revision of an Authority policy decision;
- (B) approval of a State or regional development plan; and
- (C) any allocation of funds among the States.

**(3) Project and grant proposals**

The approval of project and grant proposals shall be--

- (A) a responsibility of the Authority; and
- (B) conducted in accordance with section 2009aa-8 of this title.

**(4) Voting by alternate members**

An alternate member shall vote in the case of the absence, death, disability, removal, or resignation of the Federal or State representative for which the alternate member is an alternate.

**(d) Duties**

The Authority shall--

- (1) develop, on a continuing basis, comprehensive and coordinated plans and programs to establish priorities and approve grants for the economic development of the region, giving due consideration to other Federal, State, and local planning and development activities in the region;
- (2) not later than 220 days after December 21, 2000, establish priorities in a development plan for the region (including 5-year regional outcome targets);
- (3) assess the needs and assets of the region based on available research, demonstrations, investigations, assessments, and evaluations of the region prepared by Federal, State, and local agencies, universities, local development districts, and other nonprofit groups;
- (4) formulate and recommend to the Governors and legislatures of States that participate in the Authority forms of interstate cooperation;

- (5) work with State and local agencies in developing appropriate model legislation;
- (6) (A) enhance the capacity of, and provide support for, local development districts in the region; or
  - (B) if no local development district exists in an area in a participating State in the region, foster the creation of a local development district;
- (7) encourage private investment in industrial, commercial, and other economic development projects in the region; and
- (8) cooperate with and assist State governments with economic development programs of participating States.

**(e) Administration**

In carrying out subsection (d) of this section, the Authority may--

- (1) hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, receive such evidence, and print or otherwise reproduce and distribute a description of the proceedings and reports on actions by the Authority as the Authority considers appropriate;
- (2) authorize, through the Federal or State cochairperson or any other member of the Authority designated by the Authority, the administration of oaths if the Authority determines that testimony should be taken or evidence received under oath;
- (3) request from any Federal, State, or local department or agency such information as may be available to or procurable by the department or agency that may be of use to the Authority in carrying out duties of the Authority;
- (4) adopt, amend, and repeal bylaws, rules, and regulations governing the conduct of Authority business and the performance of Authority duties;
- (5) request the head of any Federal department or agency to detail to the Authority such personnel as the Authority requires to carry out duties of the Authority, each such detail to be without loss of seniority, pay, or other employee status;
- (6) request the head of any State department or agency or local government to detail to the Authority such personnel as the Authority requires to carry out duties of the Authority, each such detail to be without loss of seniority, pay, or other employee status;
- (7) provide for coverage of Authority employees in a suitable retirement and employee benefit system by--
  - (A) making arrangements or entering into contracts with any participating State government; or
  - (B) otherwise providing retirement and other employee benefit coverage;



- (8) accept, use, and dispose of gifts or donations of services or real, personal, tangible, or intangible property;
- (9) enter into and perform such contracts, leases, cooperative agreements, or other transactions as are necessary to carry out Authority duties, including any contracts, leases, or cooperative agreements with--
  - (A) any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States;
  - (B) any State (including a political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality of the State); or
  - (C) any person, firm, association, or corporation; and
- (10) establish and maintain a central office and field offices at such locations as the Authority may select.

**(f) Federal agency cooperation**

A Federal agency shall--

- (1) cooperate with the Authority; and
- (2) provide, on request of the Federal cochairperson, appropriate assistance in carrying out this subchapter, in accordance with applicable Federal laws (including regulations).

**(g) Administrative expenses**

**(1) In general**

Administrative expenses of the Authority (except for the expenses of the Federal cochairperson, including expenses of the alternate and staff of the Federal cochairperson, which shall be paid solely by the Federal Government) shall be paid--

- (A) by the Federal Government, in an amount equal to 50 percent of the administrative expenses; and
- (B) by the States in the region participating in the Authority, in an amount equal to 50 percent of the administrative expenses.

**(2) State share**

**(A) In general**

The share of administrative expenses of the Authority to be paid by each State shall be determined by the Authority.

**(B) No Federal participation**

The Federal cochairperson shall not participate or vote in any decision under subparagraph (A).

**(C) Delinquent States**

If a State is delinquent in payment of the State's share of administrative expenses of the Authority

under this subsection--

- (i) no assistance under this subchapter shall be furnished to the State (including assistance to a political subdivision or a resident of the State); and
- (ii) no member of the Authority from the State shall participate or vote in any action by the Authority.

#### **(h) Compensation**

##### **(1) Federal cochairperson**

The Federal cochairperson shall be compensated by the Federal Government at level III of the Executive Schedule in subchapter II of chapter 53 of Title 5.

##### **(2) Alternate Federal cochairperson**

The alternate Federal cochairperson--

- (A) shall be compensated by the Federal Government at level V of the Executive Schedule described in paragraph (1); and
- (B) when not actively serving as an alternate for the Federal cochairperson, shall perform such functions and duties as are delegated by the Federal cochairperson.

##### **(3) State members and alternates**

###### **(A) In general**

A State shall compensate each member and alternate representing the State on the Authority at the rate established by law of the State.

###### **(B) No additional compensation**

No State member or alternate member shall receive any salary, or any contribution to or supplementation of salary from any source other than the State for services provided by the member or alternate to the Authority.

##### **(4) Detailed employees**

###### **(A) In general**

No person detailed to serve the Authority under subsection (e)(6) of this section shall receive any salary or any contribution to or supplementation of salary for services provided to the Authority from--

- (i) any source other than the State, local, or intergovernmental department or agency from which the person was detailed; or





(ii) the Authority.

**(B) Violation**

Any person that violates this paragraph shall be fined not more than \$5,000, imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both.

**(C) Applicable law**

The Federal cochairperson, the alternate Federal cochairperson, and any Federal officer or employee detailed to duty on the Authority under subsection (e)(5) of this section shall not be subject to subparagraph (A), but shall remain subject to sections 202 through 209 of Title 18.

**(5) Additional personnel**

**(A) Compensation**

**(i) In general**

The Authority may appoint and fix the compensation of an executive director and such other personnel as are necessary to enable the Authority to carry out the duties of the Authority.

**(ii) Exception**

Compensation under clause (i) shall not exceed the maximum rate for the Senior Executive Service under section 5382 of Title 5, including any applicable locality-based comparability payment that may be authorized under section 5304(h)(2)(C) of that title.

**(B) Executive director**

The executive director shall be responsible for--

- (i) the carrying out of the administrative duties of the Authority;
- (ii) direction of the Authority staff; and
- (iii) such other duties as the Authority may assign.

**(C) No Federal employee status**

No member, alternate, officer, or employee of the Authority (except the Federal cochairperson of the Authority, the alternate and staff for the Federal cochairperson, and any Federal employee detailed to the Authority under subsection (e)(5)) of this section shall be considered to be a Federal employee for any purpose.

**(i) Conflicts of interest**

**(1) In general**

Except as provided under paragraph (2), no State member, alternate, officer, or employee of the Authority

shall participate personally and substantially as a member, alternate, officer, or employee of the Authority, through decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, the rendering of advice, investigation, or otherwise, in any proceeding, application, request for a ruling or other determination, contract, claim, controversy, or other matter in which, to knowledge of the member, alternate, officer, or employee--

- (A) the member, alternate, officer, or employee;
- (B) the spouse, minor child, partner, or organization (other than a State or political subdivision of the State) of the member, alternate, officer, or employee, in which the member, alternate, officer, or employee is serving as officer, director, trustee, partner, or employee; or
- (C) any person or organization with whom the member, alternate, officer, or employee is negotiating or has any arrangement concerning prospective employment; has a financial interest.

**(2) Disclosure**

Paragraph (1) shall not apply if the State member, alternate, officer, or employee--

- (A) immediately advises the Authority of the nature and circumstances of the proceeding, application, request for a ruling or other determination, contract, claim, controversy, or other particular matter presenting a potential conflict of interest;
- (B) makes full disclosure of the financial interest; and
- (C) before the proceeding concerning the matter presenting the conflict of interest, receives a written determination by the Authority that the interest is not so substantial as to be likely to affect the integrity of the services that the Authority may expect from the State member, alternate, officer, or employee.

**(3) Violation**

Any person that violates this subsection shall be fined not more than \$10,000, imprisoned not more than 2 years, or both.

**(j) Validity of contracts, loans, and grants**

The Authority may declare void any contract, loan, or grant of or by the Authority in relation to which the Authority determines that there has been a violation of any provision under subsection (h)(4) of this section, subsection (i) of this section, or sections 202 through 209 of Title 18.

**§ 2009aa-2. Economic and community development grants**

**(a) In general**

The Authority may approve grants to States and public and nonprofit entities for projects, approved in accordance with section 2009aa-8 of this title--

- (1) to develop the transportation infrastructure of the region for the purpose of facilitating economic development in the



region (except that grants for this purpose may only be made to a State or local government);

- (2) to assist the region in obtaining the job training, employment-related education, and business development (with an emphasis on entrepreneurship) that are needed to build and maintain strong local economies;
- (3) to provide assistance to severely distressed and underdeveloped areas that lack financial resources for improving basic public services;
- (4) to provide assistance to severely distressed and underdeveloped areas that lack financial resources for equipping industrial parks and related facilities; and
- (5) to otherwise achieve the purposes of this subchapter.

## **(b) Funding**

### **(1) In general**

Funds for grants under subsection (a) of this section may be provided--

- (A) entirely from appropriations to carry out this section;
- (B) in combination with funds available under another Federal or Federal grant program; or
- (C) from any other source.

### **(2) Priority of funding**

To best build the foundations for long-term economic development and to complement other Federal and State resources in the region, Federal funds available under this subchapter shall be focused on the activities in the following order or priority:

- (A) Basic public infrastructure in distressed counties and isolated areas of distress.
- (B) Transportation infrastructure for the purpose of facilitating economic development in the region.
- (C) Business development, with emphasis on entrepreneurship.
- (D) Job training or employment-related education, with emphasis on use of existing public educational institutions located in the region.

## **§ 2009aa-3. Supplements to Federal grant programs**

### **(a) Finding**

Congress finds that certain States and local communities of the region, including local development districts, may be unable to take maximum advantage of Federal grant programs for which the States and communities are eligible because--

- (1) the States or communities lack the economic resources to provide the required matching share; or
- (2) there are insufficient funds available under the applicable Federal law authorizing the Federal grant program to meet pressing needs of the region.

**(b) Federal grant program funding**

Notwithstanding any provision of law limiting the Federal share, the areas eligible for assistance, or the authorizations of appropriations of any Federal grant program, and in accordance with subsection (c) of this section, the Authority, with the approval of the Federal cochairperson and with respect to a project to be carried out in the region--

- (1) may increase the Federal share of the costs of a project under the Federal grant program to not more than 90 percent (except as provided in section 2009aa-5(b) of this title); and
- (2) shall use amounts made available to carry out this subchapter to pay the increased Federal share.

**(c) Certifications**

**(1) In general**

In the case of any project for which all or any portion of the basic Federal share of the costs of the project is proposed to be paid under this section, no Federal contribution shall be made until the Federal official administering the Federal law that authorizes the Federal grant program certifies that the project--

- (A) meets (except as provided in subsection (b) of this section) the applicable requirements of the applicable Federal grant program; and
- (B) could be approved for Federal contribution under the Federal grant program if funds were available under the law for the project.

**(2) Certification by Authority**

**(A) In general**

The certifications and determinations required to be made by the Authority for approval of projects under this Act in accordance with section 2009aa-8 of this title--

- (i) shall be controlling; and
- (ii) shall be accepted by the Federal agencies.

**(B) Acceptance by Federal cochairperson**

In the case of any project described in paragraph (1), any finding, report, certification, or documentation required to be submitted with respect to the project to the head of the department, agency, or instrumentality of the Federal Government responsible for the administration of the Federal grant program under which the project is carried out shall be accepted by the Federal cochairperson.



#### **§ 2009aa-4. Local development districts; certification and administrative expenses**

##### **(a) Definition of local development district**

In this section, the term “local development district” means an entity that--

(1) is--

(A) a planning district in existence on December 21, 2000, that is recognized by the Economic Development Administration of the Department of Commerce; or

(B) where an entity described in subparagraph (A) does not exist--

(i) organized and operated in a manner that ensures broad-based community participation and an effective opportunity for other nonprofit groups to contribute to the development and implementation of programs in the region;

(ii) governed by a policy board with at least a simple majority of members consisting of elected officials or employees of a general purpose unit of local government who have been appointed to represent the government;

(iii) certified to the Authority as having a charter or authority that includes the economic development of counties or parts of counties or other political subdivisions within the region--

(I) by the Governor of each State in which the entity is located; or

(II) by the State officer designated by the appropriate State law to make the certification; and

(iv)(I) a nonprofit incorporated body organized or chartered under the law of the State in which the entity is located;

(II) a nonprofit agency or instrumentality of a State or local government;

(III) a public organization established before December 21, 2000, under State law for creation of multi-jurisdictional, area-wide planning organizations; or

(IV) a nonprofit association or combination of bodies, agencies, and instrumentalities described in subclauses (I) through (III); and

(2) has not, as certified by the Federal cochairperson--

(A) inappropriately used Federal grant funds from any Federal source; or

(B) appointed an officer who, during the period in which another entity inappropriately used Federal grant funds from any Federal source, was an officer of the other entity.

**(b) Grants to local development districts**

**(1) In general**

The Authority shall make grants for administrative expenses under this section.

**(2) Conditions for grants**

**(A) Maximum amount**

The amount of any grant awarded under paragraph (1) shall not exceed 80 percent of the administrative expenses of the local development district receiving the grant.

**(B) Maximum period**

No grant described in paragraph (1) shall be awarded to a State agency certified as a local development district for a period greater than 3 years.

**(C) Local share**

The contributions of a local development district for administrative expenses may be in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated, including space, equipment, and services.

**(c) Duties of local development districts**

A local development district shall--

- (1) operate as a lead organization serving multicounty areas in the region at the local level; and
- (2) serve as a liaison between State and local governments, nonprofit organizations (including community-based groups and educational institutions), the business community, and citizens that--
  - (A) are involved in multijurisdictional planning;
  - (B) provide technical assistance to local jurisdictions and potential grantees; and
  - (C) provide leadership and civic development assistance.

**§ 2009aa-5. Distressed counties and areas and nondistressed counties**

**(a) Designations**

Not later than 90 days after December 21, 2000, and annually thereafter, the Authority, in accordance with such criteria as the Authority may establish, shall designate--

- (1) as distressed counties, counties in the region that are the most severely and persistently distressed and underdeveloped and have high rates of poverty or unemployment;
- (2) as nondistressed counties, counties in the region that are not designated as distressed counties under paragraph (1); and



- (3) as isolated areas of distress, areas located in nondistressed counties (as designated under paragraph (2)) that have high rates of poverty or unemployment.

**(b) Distressed counties**

**(1) In general**

The Authority shall allocate at least 75 percent of the appropriations made available under section 2009aa-12 of this title for programs and projects designed to serve the needs of distressed counties and isolated areas of distress in the region.

**(2) Funding limitations**

The funding limitations under section 2009aa-3(b) of this title shall not apply to a project providing transportation or basic public services to residents of one or more distressed counties or isolated areas of distress in the region.

**(c) Nondistressed counties**

**(1) In general**

Except as provided in this subsection, no funds shall be provided under this subchapter for a project located in a county designated as a nondistressed county under subsection (a)(2) of this section.

**(2) Exceptions**

**(A) In general**

The funding prohibition under paragraph (1) shall not apply to grants to fund the administrative expenses of local development districts under section 2009aa-4(b) of this title.

**(B) Multicounty projects**

The Authority may waive the application of the funding prohibition under paragraph (1) to--

- (i) a multicounty project that includes participation by a nondistressed county; or
- (ii) any other type of project;  
if the Authority determines that the project could bring significant benefits to areas of the region outside a nondistressed county.

**(C) Isolated areas of distress**

For a designation of an isolated area of distress for assistance to be effective, the designation shall be supported--

- (i) by the most recent Federal data available; or
- (ii) if no recent Federal data are available, by the most recent data available through the government of the State in which the isolated area of distress is located.

**(d) Transportation and basic public infrastructure**

The Authority shall allocate at least 50 percent of any funds made available under section 2009aa-12 of this title for transportation and basic public infrastructure projects authorized under paragraphs (1) and (3) of section 2009aa-2(a) of this title.

**§ 2009aa-6. Development planning process**

**(a) State development plan**

In accordance with policies established by the Authority, each State member shall submit a development plan for the area of the region represented by the State member.

**(b) Content of plan**

A State development plan submitted under subsection (a) of this section shall reflect the goals, objectives, and priorities identified in the regional development plan developed under section 2009aa-1(d)(2) of this title.

**(c) Consultation with interested local parties**

In carrying out the development planning process (including the selection of programs and projects for assistance), a State may--

(1) consult with--

(A) local development districts; and

(B) local units of government; and

(2) take into consideration the goals, objectives, priorities, and recommendations of the entities described in paragraph (1).

**(d) Public participation**

**(1) In general**

The Authority and applicable State and local development districts shall encourage and assist, to the maximum extent practicable, public participation in the development, revision, and implementation of all plans and programs under this subchapter.

**(2) Regulations**

The Authority shall develop guidelines for providing public participation described in paragraph (1), including public hearings.

**§ 2009aa-7. Program development criteria**

**(a) In general**

In considering programs and projects to be provided assistance under this subchapter, and in establishing a priority ranking of the requests for assistance provided by the Authority, the Authority shall follow procedures that ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, consideration of--





- (1) the relationship of the project or class of projects to overall regional development;
- (2) the per capita income and poverty and unemployment rates in an area;
- (3) the financial resources available to the applicants for assistance seeking to carry out the project, with emphasis on ensuring that projects are adequately financed to maximize the probability of successful economic development;
- (4) the importance of the project or class of projects in relation to other projects or classes of projects that may be in competition for the same funds;
- (5) the prospects that the project for which assistance is sought will improve, on a continuing rather than a temporary basis, the opportunities for employment, the average level of income, or the economic development of the area served by the project; and
- (6) the extent to which the project design provides for detailed outcome measurements by which grant expenditures and the results of the expenditures may be evaluated.

**(b) No relocation assistance**

No financial assistance authorized by this subchapter shall be used to assist a person or entity in relocating from one area to another, except that financial assistance may be used as otherwise authorized by this chapter to attract businesses from outside the region to the region.

**(c) Reduction of funds**

Funds may be provided for a program or project in a State under this subchapter only if the Authority determines that the level of Federal or State financial assistance provided under a law other than this subchapter, for the same type of program or project in the same area of the State within the region, will not be reduced as a result of funds made available by this subchapter.

**§ 2009aa-8. Approval of development plans and projects**

**(a) In general**

A State or regional development plan or any multistate subregional plan that is proposed for development under this subchapter shall be reviewed and approved by the Authority.

**(b) Evaluation by State member**

An application for a grant or any other assistance for a project under this subchapter shall be made through and evaluated for approval by the State member of the Authority representing the applicant.

**(c) Certification**

An application for a grant or other assistance for a project shall be approved only on certification by the State member that the application for the project--

- (1) describes ways in which the project complies with any applicable State development plan;
- (2) meets applicable criteria under section 2009aa-7 of this title;

- (3) provides adequate assurance that the proposed project will be properly administered, operated, and maintained; and
- (4) otherwise meets the requirements of this subchapter.

**(d) Approval of grant applications**

On certification by a State member of the Authority of an application for a grant or other assistance for a specific project under this section, an affirmative vote of the Authority under section 2009aa-1(c) of this title shall be required for approval of the application.

**§ 2009aa-9. Consent of States**

Nothing in this subchapter requires any State to engage in or accept any program under this subchapter without the consent of the State.

**§ 2009aa-10. Records**

**(a) Records of the Authority**

**(1) In general**

The Authority shall maintain accurate and complete records of all transactions and activities of the Authority.

**(2) Availability**

All records of the Authority shall be available for audit and examination by the Comptroller General of the United States and the Inspector General of the Department of Agriculture (including authorized representatives of the Comptroller General and the Inspector General of the Department of Agriculture).

**(b) Records of recipients of Federal assistance**

**(1) In general**

A recipient of Federal funds under this subchapter shall, as required by the Authority, maintain accurate and complete records of transactions and activities financed with Federal funds and report on the transactions and activities to the Authority.

**(2) Availability**

All records required under paragraph (1) shall be available for audit by the Comptroller General of the United States, the Inspector General of the Department of Agriculture, and the Authority ( including authorized representatives of the Comptroller General, the Inspector General of the Department of Agriculture, and the Authority).

**(c) Repealed. Pub.L. 111-8, Div. A, Title VII, § 733, Mar. 11, 2009, 123 Stat. 558**

**§ 2009aa-11. Annual report**

Not later than 180 days after the end of each fiscal year, the Authority shall submit to the President and to Congress a report describing the activities carried out under this subchapter.



## **§ 2009aa-12. Authorization of appropriations**

### **(a) In general**

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Authority to carry out this subchapter \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012, to remain available until expended.

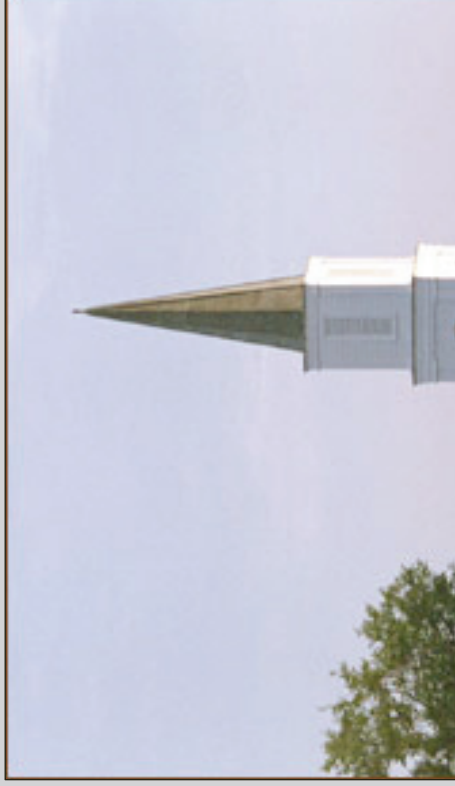
### **(b) Administrative expenses**

Not more than 5 percent of the amount appropriated under subsection (a) of this section for a fiscal year shall be used for administrative expenses of the Authority.

## **§ 2009aa-13. Termination of authority**

This subchapter and the authority provided under this subchapter expire on October 1, 2012.

END OF DOCUMENT



# Delta Regional Authority



# Headquarters and DC Office

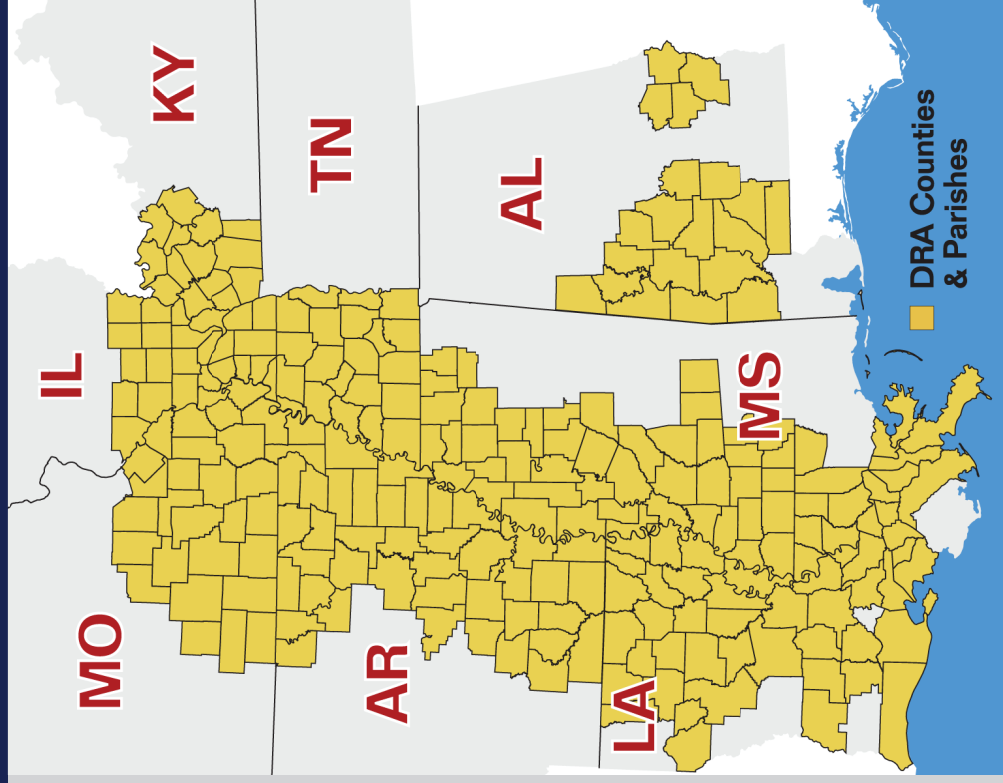
## Headquarters:

**Delta Regional Authority  
236 Sharkey Avenue  
Suite 400  
Clarksdale, MS 38614  
(P) 662-624-8600  
(F) 662-624-8537**

## Washington DC:

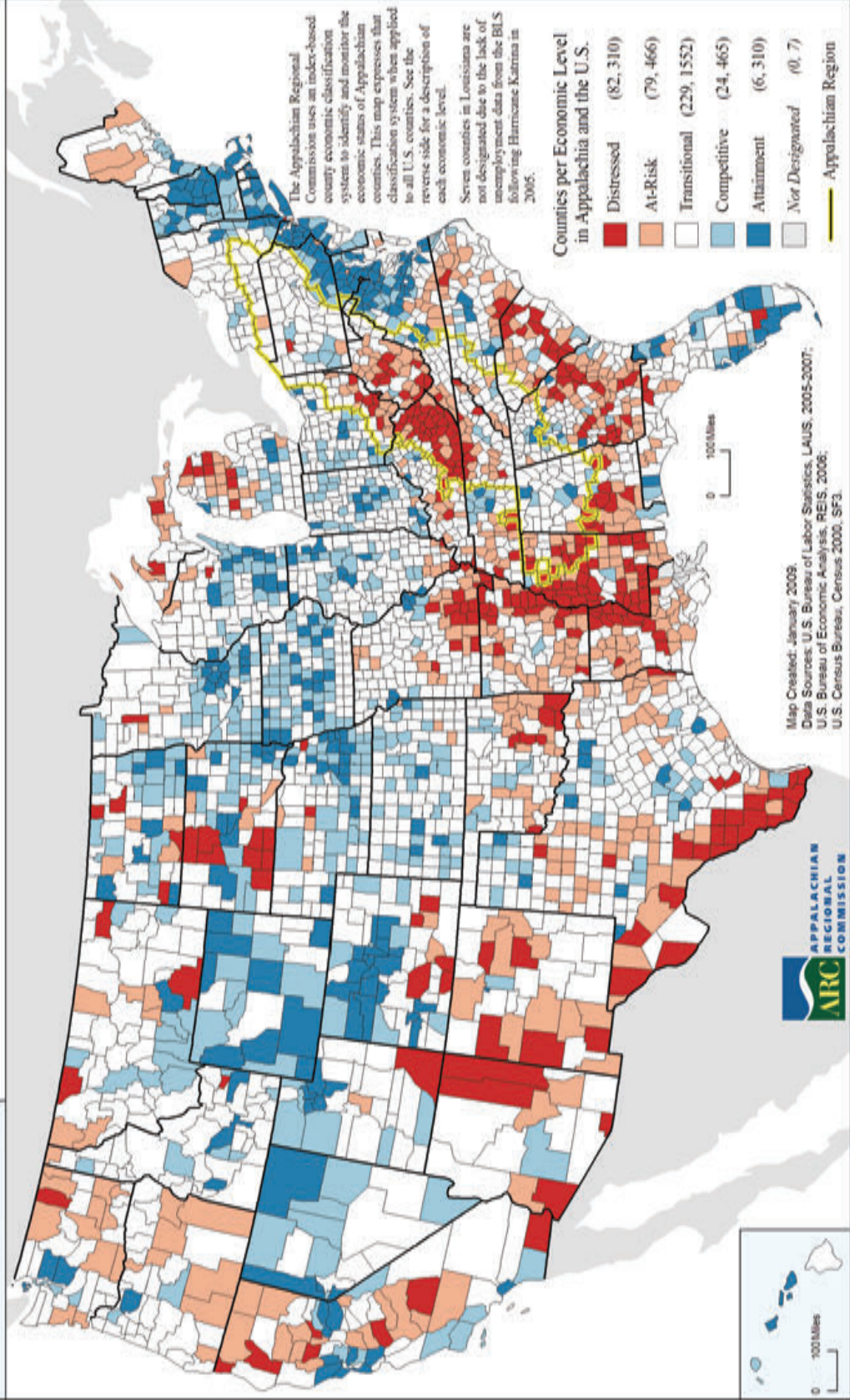
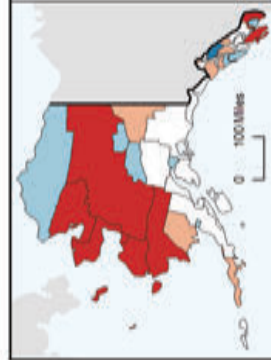
**Delta Regional Authority  
444 North Capitol St., NW  
Suite 309  
Washington, DC 20001  
(P) 202-434-4870**

# Map of DRA Service Area





# County Economic Status in the United States, Fiscal Year 2010



## Economic Status and Health Status

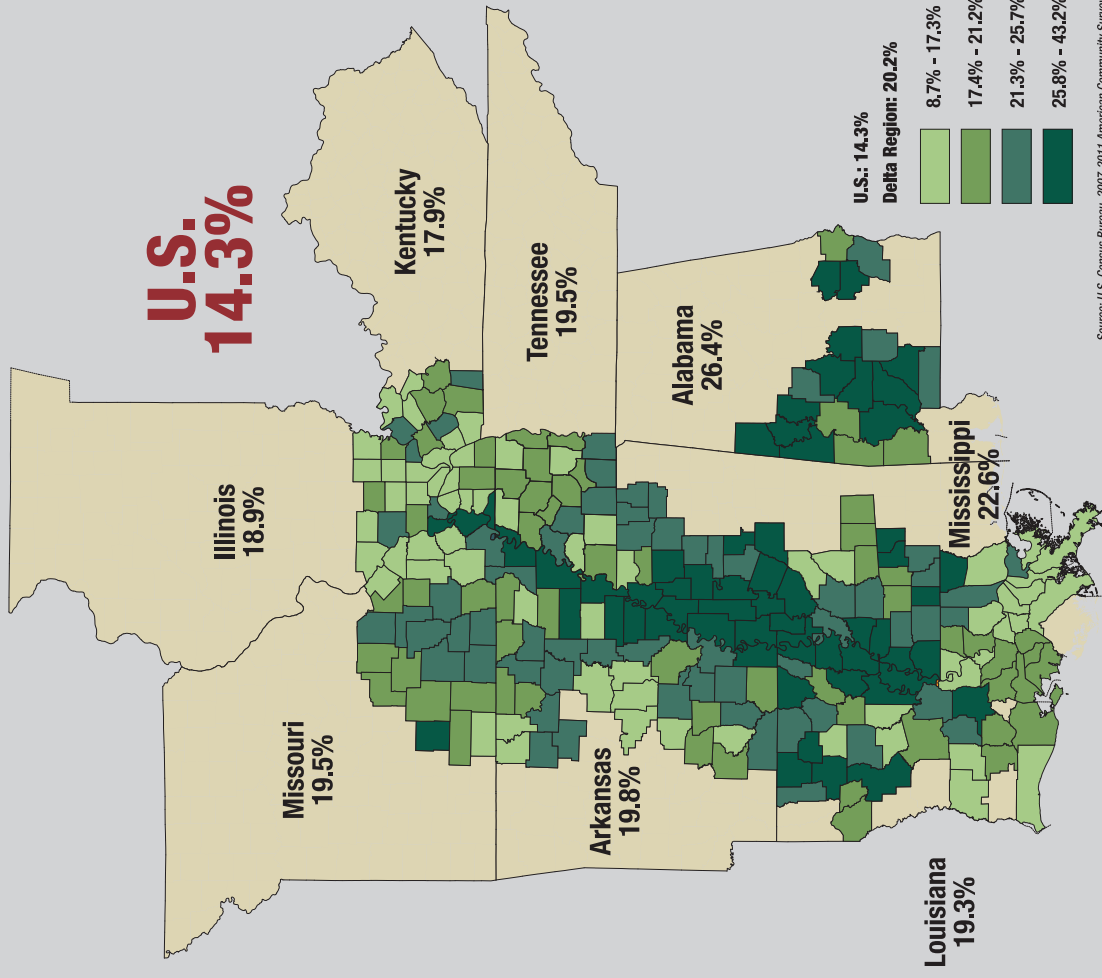
- **55% of the DRA is in the highest poverty quintile.**
- **60% is in the highest disabilities quintile.**
- **63% is in the lowest life expectancy quintile.**
- **59% is in the highest circulatory deaths quintile.**
- **54% is in the highest neoplasm deaths quintile.**
- **45% of the DRA has country-wide health-professional shortages compared to 27% of the Lower 48 States.**



# **DRA Background and Founding**

- **The Delta Regional Authority was created by Congress (“DRA Act of 2000”) as an independent federal agency.**
- **Modeled on the Appalachian Regional Commission – a highly successful multi-state economic development commission,**
- **To serve as a regional focal point to coordinate resources, planning and ideas.**
- **With its federal funding program and parallel initiatives, DRA will be a catalyst for progress in its region.**

# Percent of Population Living in Poverty: Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2007-2011



## **DRA Governance and Key Congressional Directives**

- Led by a Federal Co-Chairman, who is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, plus, the Governors of AL, AR, IL, KY, LA, MO, MS and TN.
- The Authority serves almost 10 million people in 252 counties and parishes – the vast majority are distressed.
- With its federal funding program, the Authority must:
  1. Invest at least 75 percent of its funds into in Economically Distressed Counties and Parishes and
  2. Invest at least 50 percent of its funds into Transportation and Infrastructure projects.

**KEY--DRA's funds can be the state/local match.**

# Mission

The Authority will create climates of opportunity to increase private-sector **investment, employment, and productivity.**

By doing so, the Region becomes a greater magnet for **capital, talent and innovation.**

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## Outcomes from Federal Funding Program Through 11 Funding Cycles:

- Invested **\$108 million** into **718 projects**
- Leveraged **\$632.6 million** in other public funds (a leverage ratio of 5.9 to 1)
- Attracted **\$1.7 billion** in private-sector funds (a leverage ratio of 16.2 to 1)
- Total investment leveraged – **\$2.4 billion** (a leverage ratio of 22.0 to 1)

# Priorities of Investing

- (A) Basic public infrastructure in distressed counties and isolated areas of distress.**
- (B) Transportation infrastructure for the purpose of facilitating economic development in the region.**
- (C) Business development, with emphasis on entrepreneurship.**
- (D) Job training or employment-related education, with emphasis on use of existing public educational institutions located in the region.**

# DRA Outcomes

## To Date:

- 13,203 were jobs created and jobs retained
- 19,218 families received new water and/or sewer and
- 3,664 individuals trained for jobs

## Projected:

- 27,708 jobs are being created and retained
- 32,311 families will have new water and/or sewer and
- 21,366 individuals will be trained for jobs in their area

## **Funding Impacts - Per USDA March 2010 Study**

**“We (ERS-USDA) find that per capita income and transfer payments grew more rapidly in DRA counties than similar non-DRA counties.”**

**“And, these impacts are larger in counties where DRA spending was larger.”**

**“Each additional dollar of DRA spending per capita is associated with an increase of \$15 in personal income per capita between 2002 and 2007 – including an increase of \$8 in earnings and \$5 in transfer payments.”**

# DRA Programs and Initiatives

- **Region-wide support of a “Super Project” that will help Electrolux create 1,240 jobs in the Delta, retain 2,900 jobs for Tennessee, and create over 1,600 indirect jobs within the region combined with \$195M in capital investment from the company. It is estimated that the annual tax revenue from operations would exceed \$4 million for the City of Memphis and Shelby County. DRA’s \$3 million transportation infrastructure award will leverage \$150 million in other federal, state, and local investments; a leverage ratio of 50 to 1 (total project cost leverage investment ratio is 115 to 1).**
- **White House Rural and Business Council listening sessions were conducted to help identify ideas to grow local rural economies. The DRA hosted 14 sessions throughout the Delta Region engaging more than 300 Delta residents on various issues and solutions. Issues addressed included job creation, economic development, access to capital and expanding digital and physical networks among others. A comprehensive report was submitted to the White House after each session.**



# DRA Programs and Initiatives

- **Small Business and Entrepreneurship Initiative** to provide access to capital. The DRA has prioritized investments that will lead to job creation through development of an increased number of new ventures and expansion of existing small businesses. Research from previously successful rural entrepreneurship development efforts indicates that access to training and technical assistance and access to affordable capital are two of the primary components of an effective small business and entrepreneurship developing system. Operation JumpStart will provide a regional model for training and technical assistance that will produce outstanding results in creating new microenterprises that will greatly enhance other established local small business development resources within the Delta region. It is estimated that this project will immediately produce over 110 new businesses.
- **The Partnership between DRA and Save the Children** coordinates school-age education programs primarily in poor and rural communities. The partnership with the DRA will help with training and infrastructure expenses for thirty school-based literacy programs in the Delta region in rural areas of Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

# DRA Programs and Initiatives

- Skills training helps promote Jobs for American Graduates (JAG) by preparing high school students for the workforce. This partnership will support the opening of 10 new JAG programs at schools in the DRA service area. JAG focuses on keeping students in school through graduation and equipping them with the academic and technical skills necessary to improve their employability, which is parallel to DRA's commitment to invest in strategies that boost employment and educational success.
- The Delta Leadership Institute will recognize, train and develop the leadership skills needed for the 21st Century and for the global challenges of the future. The purpose of the Institute is to build leadership skills among Delta residents and foster collaboration with partners in the public and private sectors in order to improve the economic and social viability of the Delta and the overall quality of life in the region.

# DRA Programs and Initiatives

- **Partnerships with US Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services allow Health IT and electronic health records to be implemented in rural communities.** This innovative public-private partnership will bring a discounted Health IT and Electronic Health Records program to all eight Delta states, fostering broader adoption and meaningful use of EHRs in rural and underserved communities and delivering broader support to reduce health disparities and improve health outcomes.
- **LDD Strengthening Initiative.** The Delta Regional Authority partnership with the National Association of Developing Organizations (NADO) Research Foundation will develop and implement programs aimed at strengthening the performance, programs and results of the 44 local development districts (LDDs) serving the DRA region. This initiative will help LDDs develop an outreach strategy to educate and inform various stakeholders about their many roles within their respective regions, throughout their states and the Delta region.

# DRA Programs and Initiatives

- The DRA has partnered with One Economy to focus on the incorporation of rural planning activities for the Connect to Compete (C2C) initiative which will bring a comprehensive technology solution to underserved individuals. Specifically, DRA, will work with One Economy to do a 10-20 county demonstration project (Phase I) in the Mississippi Delta; basically the template on how to achieve the results listed below.

Subsequently, in FY-2013, DRA will help get other areas in its region get these same benefits, which will include:

Participating NCTA member cable companies offering all eligible families two-years of \$9.95 + tax broadband cable Internet, with a no installation/activation fee option and no modem rental fees (with an option to purchase a \$10 modem).

# State Development Plan Strategic Goals and Priorities

## ALABAMA

Goal 1: Advance the productivity and economic competitiveness of the Delta workforce.

Strategic Objective 1.1: Foster Civic Entrepreneurship.

Strategic Objective 1.2: Diversify the Economic Base.

Strategic Objective 1.3: Enhance Entrepreneurial Activity in the Region.

Strategic Objective 1.4: Develop and Strengthen Strategic Assets for Local Economies.

Strategic Objective 1.5: Increase the Domestic and Global Competitiveness of the Existing Economic Base.

Goal 2: Strengthen the capacity of the people of the DRA to compete in the global economy (making communities flourish).

Strategic Objective 2.1: Foster Civic Entrepreneurship.

Strategic Objective 2.2: Enhance Workforce Skills through Training.

Strategic Objective 2.3: Increase Access to Quality Child Care and Early Childhood Education.

Strategic Objective 2.4: Increase Educational Attainment and Achievement.

Strategic Objective 2.5: Provide Access to Health Care Professionals.

Strategic Objective 2.6: Promote Health through Wellness and Prevention.

Goal 3: Develop and improve DRA's infrastructure to make the region economically competitive.

Strategic Objective 3.1: Foster Civic Entrepreneurship.

Strategic Objective 3.2: Build and Enhance Basic Infrastructure.

Strategic Objective 3.3: Increase the Accessibility and Use of Telecommunications Technology.

Strategic Objective 3.4: Build and Enhance Environmental Assets.

Strategic Objective 3.5: Promote the Development of an Intermodal Transportation Network.

Goal 4: Strengthen the Delta's physical and digital connections to the global economy.

Strategic Objective 4.1: Increase the Accessibility and Use of Broadband Technology.

Strategic Objective 4.2: Redirect Rural Transportation Infrastructure Funding into Linked Networks.

Strategic Objective 4.3: Promote the Development of a "New" and Innovative Broadband Program.

## ARKANSAS

DRA Goal 1: To advance the productivity and economic competitiveness of the Delta workforce

State Goal 1: Increase the incomes of Arkansans at a growth pace greater than the national average.

State Goal 2: Expand entrepreneurship focusing on knowledge-based enterprises.

- State Goal 3: Compete more effectively in the global marketplace for new business, jobs, and create a business retention strategy to reduce closures.
- State Goal 4: Our economic development policy will meet the special needs and take advantage of the extraordinary assets of various areas of the state. It will not be one size fits all.
- State Goal 5: Increase the number of workers with post-secondary training so they are prepared when they enter the workforce and equipped for new jobs in the future.

DRA Goal 2: To strengthen the Delta's physical and digital connections to the global economy.

- State Goal 1: Increase the incomes of Arkansans at a growth pace greater than the national average.
- State Goal 2: Expand entrepreneurship focusing on knowledge-based enterprises.
- State Goal 3: Compete more effectively in the global marketplace for new business, jobs, and create a business retention strategy to reduce closures.
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DRA Goal 3: To create critical mass within the Delta.

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## ILLINOIS

Priority 1: Create and Retain Illinois Jobs.

- Initiative: Make business investments to create and retain jobs.
- Initiative: Target investments to key regional industries and clusters.
- Initiative: Ensure accountable and cost-effective business investments.

Priority 2: Invest in the Illinois Workforce.

- Initiative: Continue developing best practices and policy innovations in Illinois' administration of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) program.
- Initiative: Provide incumbent worker, college readiness and workplace readiness training.
- Initiative: Continue multi-agency efforts to develop the Illinois "21st Century Workforce Pipeline."



Priority 3: Develop Illinois' Community Infrastructure and Quality of Life.

Initiative: Invest in critical public infrastructure to enable economic growth.

Initiative: Improve the economic well being of disadvantaged communities and households.

Initiative: Promote tourism development to enhance quality of life and stimulate economic growth.

Priority 4: Build a Statewide Culture of Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

Initiative: Build an entrepreneurial culture in Illinois and help small businesses maintain competitiveness in the global economy.

Initiative: Help Illinois manufacturers innovate to maintain competitiveness in the global economy.

Initiative: Establish Illinois as a technology and research commercialization leader.

Priority 5: Promote Energy Independence.

Initiative: Work to secure passage of a comprehensive state energy independence plan.

Initiative: Support state global climate change reduction initiatives.

Initiative: Work to increase renewable and sustainable energy and environmental portfolio standards.

Priority 6: Catalyze Growth in the Industries of Tomorrow.

Initiative: Perform labor market, industry trend and cluster analysis to inform investment strategies.

Initiative: Work to maintain and expand Illinois' dominance in the biotechnology sector.

Initiative: Position Illinois as a national leader in the homeland security and film production industries.

## KENTUCKY

Goal 1: Advance the productivity and economic competitiveness of the Kentucky Delta workforce.

State Strategy: Provide a world class education system from early childhood through post-secondary to ensure Kentuckians are equipped to compete in the global economy.

State Strategy: Provide relevant technical training and workforce development programs that are flexible and relevant to meet the needs of current and future employers.

State Strategy: Provide affordable and accessible health care to all Kentuckians with an emphasis on children.

State Strategy: Work to significantly decrease diabetes, lung cancer, and smoking among all Kentucky income levels.

State Strategy: Support public health initiatives that educate the region's citizens on the correlation between good health and economic vitality.

State Strategy: Encourage new and innovative approaches to economic development given the realization that the old model of industrial recruitment is not the sole answer to global economic competitiveness.

State Strategy: Support and encourage research and development of value added agriculture projects aimed at taking the KY Ag economy to the forefront of innovation worldwide.

State Strategy: To become the 21st Century leader in the development of clean, reliable, sustainable, and affordable energy sources.

Goal 2: Strengthen the Kentucky Delta's physical and digital connections to the global economy.

State Strategy: Work to improve all aspects of the Kentucky Delta Transportation network.

State Strategy: Construct Interstate 69.

State Strategy: Advance broadband deployment in all communities of the Kentucky Delta.

State Strategy: Provide an entrepreneurial climate and infrastructure to support new idea generation and commercialization.

State Strategy: Develop strategies to connect Kentucky Delta business and industries to new worldwide markets.

State Strategy: Support and develop more multi-modal Transportation projects.

State Strategy: Support and improve Port Authorities and Airports in the Kentucky Delta.

State Strategy: Support and Encourage River industry development.

State Strategy: Improve rail access for the Kentucky Delta region.

Goal 3: Create critical mass within Kentucky Delta Communities.

State Strategy: Ensure all residents of the Kentucky Delta region have access to clean, affordable water and wastewater treatment.

State Strategy: To become the world leader in adventure tourism.

State Strategy: To develop and connect more trails for walking, hiking, ATV riding, and equestrian activities.

State Strategy: Fully engage the Kentucky Delta region with the 2010 Alltech Equestrian Games.

State Strategy: Work to fully protect the natural resources of the Kentucky Delta.

State Strategy: Support community development and downtown revitalization efforts to create more sense of place and historical preservation within the communities of the Kentucky Delta.

State Strategy: Enhance and improve the housing opportunities of the Kentucky Delta.

State Strategy: Support and expand existing tourism efforts including state park oriented activities.

State Strategy: Support and encourage regional planning and development strategies and encourage cooperation with other surrounding states as well.

State Strategy: Support and encourage leadership development programs to foster leadership from within the Kentucky Delta region.

## **LOUISIANA**

Goal 1: Advance the Productivity and Economic Competitiveness of the Louisiana Workforce

Objective 1.1: Work with other regional partners to improve the employability and productivity of Louisiana Delta residents.

Objective 1.2: Strengthen workforce and professional skills programs.

Objective 1.3: Improve the health of the workforce within the Louisiana Delta parishes.

Goal 2: Strengthen Louisiana's Physical and Digital Connections to the Global Economy.





- Objective 2.1: Advance the iDelta initiative.
- Objective 2.2: Support the Delta Development Highway System.
- Objective 2.3: Expand intermodal and multi-modal transportation needs and networks.
- Objective 2.4: Expand the region's energy infrastructure and production capacity.

Goal 3: Create Critical Mass within Louisiana Communities.

- Objective 3.1: Enhance the quality of place of Delta Communities.
- Objective 3.2: Promote innovation and diversification within local and regional economies.
- Objective 3.3: Support growth oriented entrepreneurship.
- Objective 3.4: Foster local leadership.
- Objective 3.5: Build and augment basic infrastructure.

## **MISSISSIPPI**

Priority 1: Increase Private Sector and High Wage Jobs Across the Mississippi DRA Region

- State Strategy: Diversify and strengthen the economic base.
- State Strategy: Enhance entrepreneurial activity.
- State Strategy: Develop and market strategic assets for local economies.

Priority 2: Develop Sustainable Communities with High Quality of Life Throughout the Mississippi Delta Region.

- State Strategy: Foster civic entrepreneurship.
- State Strategy: Enhance workforce training.
- State Strategy: Increase access to quality child care and early childhood education.
- State Strategy: Increase educational attainment and achievement.
- State Strategy: Increase access to healthcare and healthcare professionals.
- State Strategy: Build and improve basic infrastructure.
- State Strategy: Increase access to new technologies and telecommunications infrastructure.

## **MISSOURI**

- Priority 1: To maintain, improve and diversify transportation structures and features for all modes of transportation within the region.
- Priority 2: Foster economic development that makes the best possible use of the region's resources including personal, agricultural, and natural resources.
- Priority 3: Improve the infrastructure which serves to facilitate community and economic
- Priority 4: Development.
- Priority 5: Develop access to capital.
- Priority 6: Improve job skills of the workforce.
- Priority 7: Development of human resources through education and training.
- Priority 8: Enhance the quality of life for all residents.

## TENNESSEE

Goal 1: Advance the productivity and economic competitiveness of the Delta workforce.

Objective 1.1: All Children will start school ready to learn.

Objective 1.2: High school graduation rates will increase.

Objective 1.3: Students will demonstrate competency over challenging subject matter, and learn to use their minds so they may become responsible citizens, further their learning, and become productive citizens in the nation's modern economy.

Objective 1.4: Teachers will have access to programs for their continuing education and improvements of their teaching skills so they can more effectively instruct and prepare students for life in the 21st century.

Objective 1.5: Students will be world class achievers in mathematics and science.

Objective 1.6: Every adult will have the ability to read, and have the knowledge and skills necessary to compete in a world economy and to be good citizens in this nation.

Objective 1.7: Schools will be free of drugs, violence, and the threat of violence, and will offer students a disciplined environment conducive to learning.

Objective 1.8: Schools will involve parents in the social, emotional, and academic growth of children.

Goal 2: Strengthen the Delta's physical and digital connections to the global economy.

Objective 2.1: Continue to expand and maintain the state's transportation resources to serve economic development and to maintain safe and efficient transportation for its citizens.

Goal 3: Create critical mass within Delta communities.

Objective 3.1: Water and wastewater projects.

Objective 3.2: Efficient disposal of solid waste is necessary to protect public health and to maintain the beauty of the Tennessee landscape.



# Delta Regional Authority Contact Information

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DRA-04-15-13

